Bengaluru Sunday, December 7, 2025 Pages 22 Vol 78 No 337 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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The Power of Good

Jaiswal, Kohli shine in series win

Opener's maiden century guides Men in Blue to a dominant victory over Proteas

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Travel *Page18*

Biodiversity hub

Home to dense rainforests and unspoiled beaches, the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica is your ideal holiday destination

Art & Pursuits *Page20*

The art of distortion

Anamorphic paintings are not merely visual tricks but are rigorous challenges to how we perceive our world

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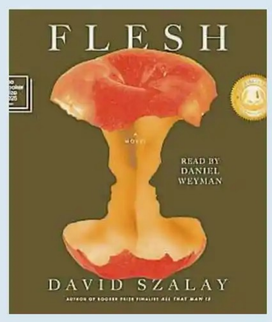

Truths laid bare

David Szalay's Booker-winner, Flesh, is an unsentimental study of ordinary lives, written in his signature sparse style

Food & Drink *Page19*

Taste of winter

Indian chefs are opting for seasonal staples like apples and pumpkins to serve up salads, soups and desserts

Quickly

Government steps in, caps airfares

Seeking to protect passengers from "any form of opportunistic pricing" following the large-scale cancellation of IndiGo flights, the government on Saturday capped airfares at Rs 7,500 for air travel up to 500 km and Rs 18,000 for those above 1,500 km.
Details on Page 3

12 killed in South Africa hostel shooting

Gunmen stormed a hostel in South Africa's capital Pretoria on Saturday, killing a dozen people including a three-year-old child, at a site police said was illegally selling alcohol. The attack is the latest in a string of mass shootings that have shocked the crime-weary country of 63 million people, which suffers one of the highest murder rates in the world.
Details on Page 11

Rid country of slave mentality: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged people to completely rid the country of the slave mentality in the next 10 years, and hit out at "so-called intellectuals" for trying to malign an entire civilisation by terming years of sluggish economic growth as Hindu rate of growth.
Details on Page 9

AP declines info on Google Data Centre MoU

The Andhra Pradesh government has refused to share the memorandum of understanding it signed with Google for setting up a data centre in Visakhapatnam, citing third-party confidentiality provisions under the Right to Information (RTI) Act saying the document contained information treated as confidential by a third party.
Details on Page 9

PE teacher hits Class 7 boy on face, arrested

A Class 7 student at a private school in Bengaluru suffered injuries on his face after he was allegedly beaten by a physical education teacher for a minor transgression. The teacher, 42-year-old Rajesh, wrote an apology letter after the boy's father filed a police complaint. The police later arrested him. The boy's father alleged the teacher hit the 12-year-old in front of other teachers.
Details on Page 4

Conflicts surge as wildlife rebounds and buffers shrink

Human–wildlife conflict is rising in Karnataka as encroachment, fragmented corridors and delayed rehabilitation erode conservation gains

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Wildlife is growing, but protected areas are not, forcing many animals to venture out of forests and often adapt. In pic, a tiger rescue operation in progress in areas around Kalpura, Heggothara and Kalanahundi in the BRT Tiger Reserve.

"It is a sad thing," a senior officer said, reflecting on how the forest department "lost an opportunity" to work with the people. He was referring to a misleading statement issued by the Bhadravati division after a problem leopard was killed on November 28 at Byrapura, a village under its jurisdiction.

A press note that followed the execution claimed that the leopard was shot only after it tried to attack a forest personnel. According to sources, the staff surrounded the lantana bush where the big cat was hiding and shot the cornered animal before it could react. The leopard had earlier mauled a migrant worker's five-year-old child and had repeatedly

INSIGHT

been involved in conflict situations. It also displayed tell-tale signs of a disease and behaved abnormally, including an unusual proximity to humans.

Here was a chance for the department to engage with local communities and conservationists and show them why eliminating an individual was necessary for the survival of the species. Instead, the forest department chose to work in secrecy and deemed public engagement irrelevant. This mindset, a carryover from a colonial mindset, has allowed the department to work in the shadows and cite efficiency for shortcuts to avoid procedure and accountability.

Over the decades, the rigid measures that created protected areas, along with subsequent strict enforcement, have helped the department claim "success." As per official estimates, Karnataka's elephant population has gone up from 3,579 in 1983 to 6,395 in 2023, putting the state on top in the country in terms of elephant population. The tiger population in the state increased from 290 in 2008 to 393 last year. A 2024 assessment by the Tiger Cell also pointed to the improvement in the herbivore population in the protected areas.

However, improved habitat does not mean its enlargement. This challenge posed by the increase in the density of tigers was best illustrated in the case of the rescue of four tiger cubs from a sugarcane plantation in Hunsur's Gowdanakatte. "Till now, we have seen leopards showing high adaptability to human habitats but a tigress choosing the safety of a sugarcane field shows that the territories that she searched in the forest were not safe. It is an unusual behaviour for a tigress," an official said.

Rising wildlife populations have not been matched by an expansion of protected areas. Instead, the edges of these reserves are seeing increasing agricultural and commercial activity, pushing animals to adapt to new situations. Communities living around forests are paying the price for this conservation success every day.

The fortress model of conservation — where people were plucked from forests to create inviolate spaces — has failed many of the thousands of families still living in enclosures (villages located within protected areas).

Long waiting lists due to lack of funds, delays in providing basic amenities and inadequate protection for families who chose to stay back have only worsened the problem. In October, two people awaiting rehabilitation in Kudremukh National Park (KNP) were trampled to death by an elephant. On the other hand, the adivasis of Nagarahole have been demanding their right to live in forests for three decades but the government has failed to resolve their problems, despite a high court order.

"We have 297 families who have applied for voluntary rehabilitation. The government has failed to mobilise funds. Supporting them would create a win-win situation for both people and wildlife," said Veeresh G, a Shivamogga-based conservationist.

While habitat loss and corridor degradation are often cited as major reasons for the rising conflicts, the department has paid little attention to the changing agricultural landscape around forests.

▸ Human-wildlife conflict, Page 2

Vanishing voices of dissent in the Supreme Court

From landmark judgments to internal deliberations, the rarity of dissent raises questions about transparency and accountability

PRIYAMVADHA SHIVAJI

A study has noted that there is only a 5.2% chance that a judge sitting on a Constitution Bench will dissent. PTI

Recently, in one of Justice B R Gavai's final acts as the Chief Justice of India (CJI), a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court led by him recalled its May 16 judgment that struck down retrospective Environmental Clearances (ECs) by the Union government. The majority view held that the May judgment would lead to significant loss of revenue and livelihoods if large-scale demolitions of illegal constructions were carried out. The dissenter, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, had in fact been part of the two-judge bench which authored the earlier judgment.

Dissents are among the most powerful tools available to judges for shaping jurisprudence and upholding institutional integrity. Although dissenting opinions are, by their nature, not part of a judgment's ratio decidendi, well-reasoned dissents that carefully engage with and counter the majority view play a crucial role in upholding judicial independence and integrity in decision-making.

As Justice Rohinton Nariman has observed, three landmark dissenting judgments in Indian jurisprudential history have since been validated by the passage of time. They include Justice Fazl Ali's dissent in *A K Gopalan v State of Madras*, Justice Subba Rao's dissent in *Kharak Singh v State of Uttar Pradesh* and Justice H R Khanna's in *ADM Jabalpur v Shivkant Shukla*.

Yet, for all the attention that such landmark dissents have received, the incidence of dissenting opinions or even robust deliberation and debate among judges on the bench appears to be rapidly diminishing. A 2011 study by Nick Robinson et al noted that there is only a 5.2% chance that a judge sitting on a Constitution Bench (a bench of five or more judges) will dissent. Dissenting voices are still audible, but faint. Former CJI Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, for instance, dissented multiple times while serving as a puisne judge, but only once during his tenure as CJI although he led all 18 Constitution Benches constituted during that period.

The SUNDAY STORY

Disappearing dissents

The composition of a bench plays a significant role in shaping the potential for deliberation and the prospects of concurrence or dissent. The CJI, in the exercise of their Master of the Roster powers, chooses the composition of every bench, including for petitions seeking recall or review of other judgments by the court. This power has often been called into question, most notably in 2018 when four judges alleged in a press conference that the then CJI, Dipak Misra, was selectively assigning cases to judges.

Justice Misra is, however, far from the only CJI to have fully exercised their Master of the Roster powers. As of 2025, CJIs have found themselves in a minority on Constitution Bench cases only 13 times in the court's entire history. The Robinson study notes that dissents by judges who are part of a bench led by a CJI are extremely rare, occurring in just 0.8% of cases.

Studies on the selection of judges by the CJIs for Constitution Benches indicate a pattern where, in the absence of a transparent and permanent logic for case allocation, certain judges are often given more opportunities to be part of a bench than others. *Court on Trial* (2023) by Aparna Chandra et al highlights incidents where CJIs have disproportionately picked judges who have often been recommended for appointment by the same Collegium that the CJIs were part of.

▸ Judicial dissent, Page 2

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Restore wild animal corridors

Human-wildlife conflict, from Page 1

Areas that once acted as buffers between the forest and the village have turned into agricultural lands that stay green even in summer, thanks to borewells.

The high density of the animal population is another concern that is not much discussed about. A wildlife wing officer who inspected the Bandipur-Nagarahole landscape last month said he was struck by the changes. "For decades, researchers told us that the territorial range of tigers is about 10 sq km. But the thermal drone images revealed adults thriving in one sq km territory or even lesser. Things have changed in the animal world and we need to understand with better studies," he said.

For nearly two decades, prey scarcity was blamed for tigers and leopards venturing into villages while shortage of fodder and water was cited as a reason for elephants rampaging through human habitats. But thanks to tiger conservation funds, the department has dug water holes and filled them using solar pumps even in searing summers, boosting the numbers of ungulates and mammals, which in turn have multiplied the carnivore population correspondingly.

Population pressure

Human population growth has also compounded the pressure. For instance, Mysuru district's population went up from 18.27 lakh in 1981 to 30.01 lakh in 2011 with the projections putting the current numbers at around 35 lakh. HD Kote, Hunsur and Periyapatna alone have recorded 50% to 60% growth in population. This, in turn, resulted in the rapid expansion of area under cultivation, from 17,995 hectare (1981) to 51,731 hectare (2023-24), as recorded by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics. The expansion of borewell irrigation pushed the district's sugarcane and banana cultivation far beyond the traditional Cauvery belt, creating irresistible attractions for elephants.

Karnataka has nearly two lakh acres of forest land under encroachment. A lack of political will means much of it may never be evicted as the Forest Department is often compelled to approach the issue from a humanitarian perspective. This was evident when a tiger killed a farmer from Mullur in Saragur taluk. The land he was cultivating had been officially identified as encroached, still the department provided him ex gratia compensation.

Lure for better foods

However, by focusing solely on encroachments and habitat degradation, we risk overlooking other major issues. For instance, conservationists note that while fodder shortages can be a trigger, the lure of better food sources in sugarcane, banana and maize fields plays a significant role in drawing elephants out of protected areas. As a result, around 160 elephants in Kodagu and 90 to 100 in Hassan have now become permanent residents of coffee plantations.

A conservationist noted that the widespread cultivation of sugarcane and banana has contributed to changes in elephant behaviour, and that most conflict situations now involve humans and elephants. Of the 701 people killed in human–wildlife conflicts in Karnataka between 2010–11 and November 2025, about 479 (68.33%) were attributed to encounters with elephants. Leopards accounted for a distant second with 41 deaths, followed by bears (40), tigers (39), wild boar (34) and other species.

This trajectory was foretold by the Elephant Task Force (ETF) set up by the High Court of Karnataka. The 2012 ETF report helped the forest department initiate a discussion on the wildlife corridors but little progress followed. Even a decade after the high court ordered (WP 14089/2008) the government to take up ameliorative actions, the government and the forest departments are nowhere near implementation of the same. The court directions included notification of elephant corridors, reviewing clearances given to projects in elephant habitats and corridors, restricting non-forest activities in such areas and reviewing use of land on the periphery of the habitats.

In fact, the government has violated its commitment before the high court. The proliferation of concrete structures at Dubare camp, a major elephant corridor to northern areas of Cauvery, is a striking example. Although commercialisation began with the government's own Jungle Lodges and Resorts in 2000-01 in Dubare, satellite images show the river-widening area, once an elephant crossing zone, remained a green pasture until 2013. The subsequent proliferation of structures coincided with the growing elephant conflicts in Virajpet taluk. The ETF report specifically warned that the mini-hydel projects in the area posed a major threat to wildlife, yet the department came close to endorsing a new project last year.

The state forest department and the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are custodians of forests, managing a public resource whose value has become increasingly evident in the era of visible climate change. However, both have facilitated investments worth thousands of crores of rupees in projects that have destroyed the ecology in the name of "development'.

Animal adaptability

Another conservationist and member of the ETF said the past two decades have been marked by the government and the forest department distancing themselves from the public, while also failing to understand animal behaviour. An issue that has not received enough attention by both the department and the conservationists was the high adaptability of the animals.

"This aspect of mimetic evolution has been almost ignored. There are elephants habituated to raiding crops and taking refuge in private plantations. It has become a new normal for them. Some leopards have begun surviving by preying on stray dogs. Cubs raised by such leopards may never feel out of place in a city," said the ETF member. Tigers, too, may be on the cusp of similar behavioural shifts. "In the two years it has, a tiger will teach her cubs the skill to survive in human habitation," he warned.

Except for leopards, wildlife populations have thrived in protected areas, showing their importance for conservation. Yet, more core areas continue to be diverted for power projects under the pretext of 'site-specific' necessity. "Whether it is pumped-storage projects such as Sharavathi and Varahi in the Western Ghats or linear developments like road widening, clearances are being granted without proper assessment of their ecological impact," he said.

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre acknowledged the need for reforms. "There is a need to understand the impact of a project," he said. He noted that a committee of senior officers has been set up to assess the carrying capacity of the Western Ghats. "The assessment will act as a guide in understanding the impact of new proposals," he said.

Experts say that without a comprehensive corridor plan, no amount of tracking elephants will help. The government is sitting on a proposal that has identified 53 key elephant corridors and recommended measures to protect them. At the same time, the government is losing grazing lands (*gomala*) to encroachment or development works, destroying the last pieces of buffer areas.

> There is a need to understand the impact of a project. A committee has been set up to assess the carrying capacity of the Western Ghats. The assessment will act as a guide in understanding the impact of new proposals.
>
> **ESHWAR B KHANDRE**
> Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister

The minister agreed that habitat and corridor protection is key. "We have farmers lining up to sell thousands of acres to the government. They cannot take the conflict anymore. So, we need long-term strategies. From having enough staff to training them scientifically and understanding the animal behaviour, we have several challenges to face. We need a thorough understanding of the habitats so that core areas with less animals can be used as sink" he said.

He added that measures to prevent tragedies in the short term will be put in place. "We are starting with a command centre where the latest technology will be utilised to track elephant movement," he said.

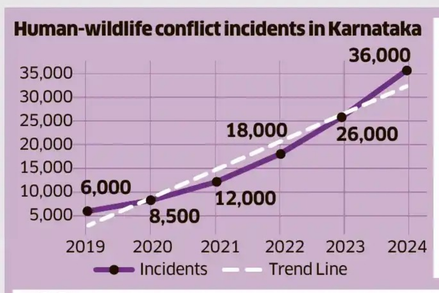
While an average of 30 people have been killed in conflict with elephants every year since 2010-11, the department has recorded an average of 15 unnatural deaths of elephants during the same years. There is a broad agreement among politicians, bureaucrats and conservationists about the need for scientific management of wildlife populations, in view of the limitations of the habitat. South Africa's immunocontraception, a vaccine that will be effective up to three years, has emerged as a promising measure to check elephant population. Yet, there remains a hesitation about discussing such measures openly as this may bring up uncomfortable questions.

"We need to engage with the scientific community and the public in a transparent way to understand the current scenario and tackle the emerging challenges to conservation efforts. I am sure there will be criticism. Someone may ask us to remove the invasive species before harking on to population management. We should be open to ideas and explore them transparently. All this can start when we start acknowledging our mistakes and admitting our limitations," a senior officer said.

The battle for space

- Human-wildlife conflict in **Karnataka** has increased, with nearly **70,000** incidents reported over the past six years
- The southern Western Ghats region experience the most intense conflicts, especially around **Bandipur, Nagarahole, BRT tiger reserves** and **MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Fragmentation of Karnataka's elephant corridors, which are crucial for wildlife movement, have resulted in human-wildlife conflicts
- **Tigers** and **leopards** are increasingly moving beyond protected areas, driven by territorial pressures and prey scarcity, posing rising threats to livestock and human safety

Human-wildlife conflict incidents in Karnataka



Rise in conflicts

183% increase in conflicts

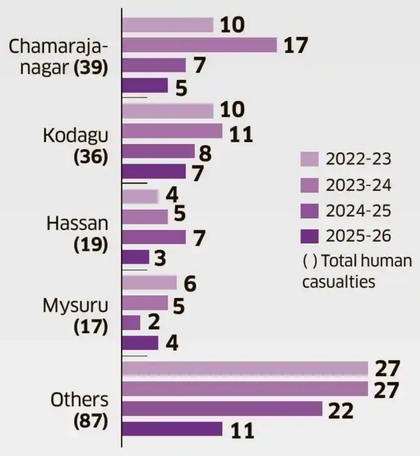
36,000 Number of human-animal conflicts in Karnataka between 2019 and 2024

35,580 Wildlife conflict incidents occurred in 2024-25 alone

63% CONFLICT INCIDENTS IN 2024-25 WERE INVOLVING **ELEPHANTS**

Karnataka has a healthy population of wild animals

Nearly one-third of human casualties are in Chamarajanagar, Kodagu



Encounters with elephants account for highest human casualties in Karnataka

Animal	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025	Total
Elephant	28	32	48	36	20	164
Tiger	2	5	5	2	4	18
Leopard	-	6	3	1	2	12
Others	11	14	9	7	4	45
Total	41	57	65	46	30	239

Human-elephant encounters (2021-2024)

414 Odisha	316 Jharkhand	273 West Bengal	217 Assam
184 Chhattisgarh	141 Tamil Nadu	104 Karnataka	84 Kerala

Human-tiger encounters (2021- June 2024)

169 Maharashtra	57 Uttar Pradesh	21 Madhya Pradesh	14 Bihar
11 Karnataka	4 Tamil Nadu	3 Chhattisgarh	0 Kerala

Irrigation-led crop shifts fuel human–wildlife conflict

	Area under irrigation in Karnataka (in lakh hectare)					
Year	Canals	Tanks	Tube wells	Lift irrigation	Other sources	Total
2001-02	**9.03**	**2.43**	**5.74**	**0.91**	**3.64**	**21.77**
2004-05	9.5	1.77	4.27	0.98	3.86	20.36
2009-10	**11.05**	**1.96**	**12.51**	**1.29**	**4.13**	**30.94**
2011-12	11.8	1.78	12.78	1.00	3.83	31.17
2014-15	**11.8**	**1.58**	**14.02**	**0.87**	**4.73**	**32.97**
2019-20	12.6	1.38	18.63	1.26	6.5	40.39

Wildlife deaths

- Between 2021 and November 2024, nearly **75 tigers** died in India due to poaching **(33)**, seizures **(7)** and other unnatural causes **(35)**
- With **179 tiger deaths**, Karnataka stood third highest among the states in terms of tiger mortality in 2012-2024
- Karnataka lost over **280 elephants** between 2021 and 2024-2025
- **Trenches** and **solar fences** were the leading causes for the deaths of elephants

What is triggering the conflict?

1. Dense growth of invasive species like Lantana camara and Senna spectabilis obstructs animal movement and reduces food availability
2. Monoculture plantations have degraded habitats by replacing diverse native vegetation with monocrops, reducing natural food sources for wildlife
3. Encroachment on traditional elephant paths recorded in their genetic memory creates confusion and redirects herds into human settlements
4. Growing wildlife populations, though a conservation success, is creating demographic pressures in protected areas
5. Bureaucratic negligence and funding gaps can delay payments up to six months, prompting retaliatory actions against wildlife by affected communities
6. Linear infrastructure and power lines disrupt wildlife movement. In 2021-24, the state saw 35 elephant deaths due to electrocution and one due to train-related accident
7. Decline in forest cover is creating fragmented habitats pushing animals into human-dominated areas

60% wildlife raids occur in July-December in Western Ghats

- In the Central Western Ghats, elephants cause 90.06% of crop damage, followed by Indian gaur (5.54%) and wild boars (4.40%)
- Elephants prefer banana, paddy, palm and arecanut crops with raid frequencies ranging from 1 to 18 incidents annually per affected area
- Contrary to popular belief that animals invade human areas during summer droughts, 30.9% of conflicts occurred during the monsoon (July–September) and 29.4% from October–December

Source: Lok Sabha questions, Karnataka State Western Ghats Conservation Taskforce Committee, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Forest Department, Agriculture Department, media reports)

COMPILED BY **DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI**
DH GRAPHIC: **GURU PRASATH R**

Isolated conservation fails everyone

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Alienation of forest dwellers and tribal people from the protected areas of Karnataka is having an adverse impact on forest conservation. The abandonment of traditional practices, such as controlled seasonal fire and collection of minor forest produce, that once provided sustainable livelihoods, has left the communities, whose tradition and culture were rooted in conservation, in conflict with the forest department.

While the tribal people, under the Forest Rights Act, have rights to collect minor forest produces (MFP) from the protected areas, experts say that forest officials, in the name of conservation, do not allow them to gather MFP.

Experts believe that as long as local communities are not involved, no conservation efforts from the government can succeed. A senior researcher, who has worked in BRT Wildlife Sanctuary, says, "Earlier, tribal communities had a sense of ownership of the forest. But today they are being kept out of the conservation efforts."

She says one-third of the income for the tribal people used to come from MFP. Forests were tribal people's main sources of food, medicine and financial sustenance. "Now, by discouraging them from sustainable harvesting, the department is forcing them to take illegal and risky routes to extract the forest produce, which have market demand," she says.

Experts point out that a majority of human casualties in and around the protected areas is due to accidental encounters. Vittal B S, a tribal leader from Siddapur Hadlu in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, says that controlled forest fire would have ensured a large view line and sighting of animals from long distance.

Tarsh Thekaekara, a Bengaluru-based researcher-conservationist, says that ecological research is increasingly converging on the fact that traditional forms of controlled, cool-season ground fires had multiple benefits, including preventing the spread of invasive species. "Weeds have taken over the space of grasses and palatable plants. This has resulted in a shortage of food for herbivores, forcing them to venture into human habitats. Carnivores follow them and this is resulting in increased human–animal conflict," he says.

Tarsh adds that India's fire policy still follows a colonial mindset of focusing primarily on trees, while ignoring grasses, which are vital for herbivores. "We need to urgently start managing the grassy understory of forests," he adds.

Not just in tiger reserves, the forest department is discouraging locals from using the protected areas in dry and open forests as well.

Hosapete-based conservationist Samad Kottur says, "Instead of species-specific conservation, the department should look for habitat and landscape conservation."

He says locals in and around Sandur forest area and Daroji Sloth bear sanctuary used to share a symbiotic relationship with the wild animals. "While cattle used to get natural grass, their manure would enrich the soil content and set in motion a food chain involving dung-beetle and sloth bears. However, now as human intervention is strictly restricted in protected areas, there is an overgrowth."

Samira Agnihotri, Associate Professor at The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, says the current conservation frameworks such as relocation of tribals, translocation of animals and erecting barricades to prevent human-animal conflict are just addressing the symptoms of issue and not the solutions. "Indigenous people had solutions and they were coexisting with the wild," she says.

Experts, however, caution that a balance must be maintained. Jayshree Ratnam, Director of the Wildlife Biology and Conservation Program at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, says there is no "either everything or nothing" in conservation efforts. "Forest-associated indigenous people need to be able to benefit from forest produce extraction. But that does not mean overharvesting."

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Judicial dissent, from Page 1

When dissent fades, so does the safeguard of judicial independence

Even in cases where dissents have occurred, judges have pointed out the lack of a mechanism to ensure adequate deliberation and dialogue, which is essential for developing robust reasoning in judgments.

Last year, Justice Dipankar Datta, who was one of three dissenting judges in Aligarh Muslim University v Naresh Agarwal & Ors., highlighted the absence of "a true give and take of ideas in true democratic spirit to build a consensus".

In this environment, it is little wonder that true dissenting opinions that meaningfully engage with the majority view and contrasting jurisprudence are rare.

Suppressing discord

An even more troubling instance of dissent occurred in the Supreme Court in August this year, when Justice Vipul M Pancholi was recommended for elevation to the Supreme Court by the Collegium headed by Justice Gavai. Justice B V Nagarathna, the lone woman judge in the apex court, had dissented, citing instances of other senior high court judges, including women, being superseded. However, the formal text of Justice Nagarathna's dissent, which had been placed on record before the Collegium, was never made public.

However, Justice Gavai allowed Justice Bhuyan to read pages of his dissenting opinion in the ECs case in open court, remarking that it would soon be made public. Yet, this adherence to transparency and public trust was markedly absent when it came to internal dissents in the exercise of his internal administrative powers.

> **Allowing dissenting voices to flourish lies at the heart of democracy. Public trust in the Supreme Court's integrity and rationality in decision-making is crucial. Judges must be free to take positions based on sound reasoning and careful appreciation of each case. Ultimately, transparent and deep deliberation may lead to unanimous decisions, with no dissent being preferred.**

His farewell speech, which lamented the acute under-representation of women in the higher judiciary, rings hollow in the absence of any attempts to highlight and institutionally address Justice Nagarathna's strong dissent.

Allowing dissenting voices to flourish lies at the heart of democracy. Public trust in the Supreme Court's integrity and rationality in decision-making is crucial. Judges must be free to take positions based on sound reasoning and careful appreciation of each case. Ultimately, transparent and deep deliberation may lead to unanimous decisions, with no dissent being preferred.

This process, however, must be fair and open. Dissents, whether expressed on or off the bench, should be carefully handled to demonstrate that internal disagreements can be acknowledged and institutionally addressed.

In Pakistan, as a result of the sweeping and controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment passed in November, three judges from the Supreme Court and Lahore High Court were forced to resign, as their voices, raised in defence of judicial integrity, were not heard. One can only hope that judicial integrity in India never sinks to a similar low.

(Priyamvadha Shivaji is Senior Resident Fellow, Justice, Access and Lowering Delays in India (JALDI) Initiative at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy. Views are personal)

Airfares capped to end 'opportunistic pricing'

Max ticket prices in Rs 7.5k-18k range; DGCA issues notice to IndiGo CEO

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Distance range/ Max fare*
- Up to 500km **Rs 7,500**
- 500-1,000km **Rs 12,000**
- 1,000-1,500km **Rs 15,000**
- Above 1,500km **Rs 18,000**

*Excludes taxes & user fees, not applicable for business class, Udan flights

Passengers wait at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Saturday. REUTERS

Instructions to IndiGo
- Complete ticket refund process for cancelled flights by Sunday 8 pm
- Ensure baggage separated from travellers is delivered in 48 hours
- Shouldn't levy any rescheduling charges

Seeking to protect passengers from "any form of opportunistic pricing" following the large-scale cancellation of IndiGo flights, the Union government on Saturday capped fares at Rs 7,500 for air travel up to 500 km and Rs 18,000 for those above 1,500 km.

The massive cancellations and delays, which stretched to fifth consecutive day, prompted aviation watchdog DGCA to issue a show cause notice to the airline's CEO Pieter Elbers, *PTI* reported on Saturday night, adding that the CEO has been asked to reply within 24 hours.

Both developments came on a day when IndiGo cancelled around 800 flights.

The price cap announced by the government stands at Rs 12,000 for a 500-1,000 km air travel and Rs 15,000 for those flying in the 1,000-1,500 km range.

The cap, which will be applicable until the situation fully stabilises, is not available for business class tickets and UDAN flights. The fare rule, which is enforced immediately, excludes taxes, user development fees and passenger service fee.

Separately, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has directed IndiGo to complete the refunding process for cancelled flights by Sunday 8 pm, as well as ensure that baggage separated from travellers are delivered in the next two days.

In its specific instructions to IndiGo, the ministry also directed the airline not to levy any rescheduling charges for passengers whose travel plans were affected by cancellations.

To ensure seamless grievance redressal, a statement from the ministry said, IndiGo has been instructed to set up dedicated passenger support and refund facilitation cells. These cells have been tasked with proactively contacting affected passengers and ensuring that refunds and alternative travel arrangements are processed without the need for multiple follow-ups.

The system of automatic refunds will remain active until operations stabilise completely, it said.

IndiGo will also have to ensure that all baggage that was separated from passengers due to cancellations or delays is traced and delivered to the passenger's residential or chosen address within the next 48 hours.

Airlines have been told to maintain clear communication with passengers regarding tracking and delivery timelines, and to provide compensation where required under existing passenger rights regulations.

The order on airfare cap said airlines should maintain ticket availability across all buckets of travel and should consider capacity enhancement on sectors that see a surge in demand.

The carriers also should avoid steep or unusual fare revisions on sectors affected by cancellations.

▸ Fares capped, Page 8

Where is my baggage? Flyers battle new headache at KIA

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Stranded passengers at the Kempegowda International Airport on Saturday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

IndiGo What Went Wrong? **Scan for video**

The continuing mass cancellations and delays of IndiGo flights at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) have created a mayhem of logistical failure and distress, with baggage-handling emerging as a new front of passenger ordeal, echoing the plot of Steven Spielberg's famous film *The Terminal*.

Just as Tom Hanks' character was marooned in an airport, though due to an invalidated passport, hundreds of Indian and international passengers have found themselves unexpectedly stranded, effectively homeless, and cut off from their lives for hours and days.

Until 7 pm on Saturday, the airport saw 165 cancellations — 86 arrivals and 79 departures. The impacted sectors include Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune.

Passengers, already exhausted by flight cancellations stretching up to 12 hours and more, face a new, infuriating wait for their checked-in luggage.

▸ Mayhem, Page 8

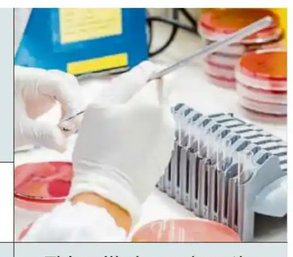
B'luru to get Central Drug Testing Lab, to cut wait time for sample analysis reports

Govt plans to impose life term for fake medicine peddlers

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Streamlining systems
- Most of samples from Karnataka are now sent to Kolkata, resulting in delays in ascertaining quality of drugs
- Dept plans to amend Central Act to ensure standardisation of documents
- Also plans to empanel third-party institute for assessment of safety standards
- This will also reduce the manpower burden on the department



Karnataka could soon have a Central Drug Testing Laboratory to process drug samples faster and flag adulterated or substandard drugs.

Presently, only Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai and Kasauli have such laboratories. Most of the samples from Karnataka are sent to Kolkata, causing delays in ascertaining the authenticity of drug samples and filing cases against adulterations or substandard drugs.

The Health and Family Welfare Department has decided to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and seek the Centre's approval to accredit the Government Drug Testing Laboratory, located in Jayanagar 1st Block, Bengaluru, as a Central Drug Testing Laboratory.

"Whenever we collect samples which are not satisfactory, violators petition the court asking for tests at the Central Drug Testing Laboratory. Since all our samples are sent to Kolkata for testing, there have been instances when the results have come back after two or even three months. Hence, we decided to approach the Union government," said Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health).

Once the Centre's approval comes through, Karnataka will also take measures to ensure it meets compliance norms set by the department.

The amendment also proposes first-of-a-kind initiatives like standardisation of documents and empanelment of a third-party institute for assessment of safety standards.

"All retail and wholesale drug dealers will have to maintain records in a format prescribed by the health department. This will help us analyse stocks available and easily retrieve details. It will also help keep a check on sales of recalled drugs," Gupta added.

The third-party empanelment to assess regulatory compliance helps both the department and the sellers, a senior official said.

▸ Drug, Page 8

Premium FAR now open; GBA eyes Rs 2,000 cr annual revenue

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has opened doors for landowners and builders to apply for premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR).

The development comes after the Karnataka High Court on Friday dismissed petitions challenging zoning regulations.

The GBA is eyeing Rs 2,000 crore annually from the premium FAR fee.

"The premium FAR helps better utilisation of high-value properties and will act as a new source of revenue for the corporations...," said Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development.

A maximum of additional 0.4 FAR can be obtained based on road width.

Sonia joins Cong meeting on K'taka rumblings for first time

AJITH ATHRADY & SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Sonia Gandhi

The Congress top leadership on Saturday held deliberations on the leadership tussle in Karnataka with Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi joining the discussions for the first time on finding a resolution to the rising tension between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

Though a decision eluded the meeting, which was depicted as a meeting to discuss "current political situation" as it was preliminary in nature, top party leaders will meet again, with sources indicating that it could take place only after the conclusion of Parliament's Winter Session. While a schedule has not been finalised, it could also happen during early January.

Party president Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal drove to 10 Janpath, where Sonia lives with her son and Leader of hthe Opposition Rahul Gandhi, for the deliberations, which lasted for around two and a half hours.

After the meeting, Venugopal told reporters, "There was a general discussion about the current political situation. We discussed Karnataka also. Nothing has come out today. There will be another discussion (on Karnataka)."

This is the first time Sonia has joined a conversation on the Karnataka leadership tussle. She has been keeping away from such political deliberations for some time.

Sources said Sonia suggested that they should have one more meeting on Karnataka later.

The leadership will also be reiterating its instructions to both camps to ensure that there is no public spat on the leadership issue till the central leadership takes a decision.

As both the Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar camps are at loggerheads over the power-sharing formula, Kharge had repeatedly said that a decision on the Karnataka leadership issue would be taken in consultation with both Sonia and Rahul.

Sources said Venugopal briefed Sonia and other leaders about the breakfast and lunch meetings both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar had.

Suspended TMC MLA lays stone for 'Babri-style' mosque

BAHARAMPUR (WEST BENGAL), PTI: Suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir on Saturday laid the foundation stone for a mosque modelled on Ayodhya's Babri Masjid at Rejinagar in Murshidabad district amid unprecedented security, injecting fresh political heat into a polarised West Bengal ahead of the Assembly polls due early next year.

People carry bricks for the foundation stone laying of the mosque in Rejinagar, West Bengal, on Saturday. PTI

The event, deliberately timed for December 6, the anniversary of the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition, unfolded under a security blanket.

Kabir, speaking from a sprawling stage set a kilometre away from the proposed mosque site, cut a ribbon with clerics as chants of "Nara-e-Takbeer, Allahu Akbar" rolled across the grounds filled with thousands of supporters carrying symbolic bricks.

"There is nothing unconstitutional about this. Building a place of worship is a constitutional right. Babri Masjid will be built," Kabir said, claiming an attendance of four lakh.

Referring to the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992, Kabir said, "Thirty-three years ago, a deep wound was inflicted on Muslims' hearts. Today, we are applying a small balm."

While the BJP accused the TMC of covertly encouraging polarisation while publicly distancing itself from Kabir, senior TMC leaders alleged Kabir was "on the payroll of the BJP" and functioning as its agent.

UG NEET: Revised provisional results for 3rd round announced

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a relief for thousands of medical seat aspirants who were waiting for the results of third/mop-up round results, the Karnataka Examinations Authority announced the revised provisional results on Saturday following the high court order.

The real allotment results will be announced on Monday.

Candidates can send an email to keauthority-ka@nic.in by 3 pm on December 7 in case they have any objections.

Students who had participated in the third round counselling were anxiously waiting for the high court order as the provisional results announced by KEA on October 24 were challenged by some students. The court, which had directed the KEA not to process the results, passed its order on Friday.

Following the court order, KEA ran the entire process and released the revised provisional results. Those who get seats in the real allotment on Monday should pay the fee by December 10 (by deducting the fee already paid to KEA). The students must also report to colleges by downloading the confirmation slip by December 11.

Seats have been allotted based on the preferences/ choices already registered by the candidates. Candidates must mandatorily report to the allotted colleges in this round.

"All the candidates have been considered for the 443 seats in the nine colleges newly added in the third round. Of the candidates who got the 443 seats, 301 have already got an MBBS seat in the first and second rounds, and all the candidates will also be considered for the 301 seats that will be vacated by them," said H Prasanna, Executive Director KEA.

▸ NEET, Page 8

ELUSIVE SPECIES

Bamboo shrimp rediscovered after 7 decades

DH SPECIAL

NAINA J A
MANGALURU, DHNS

Atyopsis spinipes

Confusion cleared
- Presence first reported in 1951
- Report wrongly mentioned the species as *Atyopsis moluccensis*, but it lacked evidence
- Current discovery establishes presence of bamboo shrimp genus on Indian mainland
- Discovered species has been identified as *Atyopsis spinipes*

After more than 70 years, a team of researchers has rediscovered a rare bamboo shrimp species on mainland India, including in an estuary in Karnataka, conclusively establishing for the first time the presence of the freshwater species in the country.

The research team from the Centre for Climate Change Studies at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, included noted shrimp biologist Dr S Prakash, PhD scholar K Kunjulakshmi and Mangaluru-based Maclean Antony Santos.

Together, they conducted extensive field surveys, ecological assessments and detailed laboratory analyses to validate the identity of the elusive species *Atyopsis spinipes*. The discovery has been published in the *Zootaxa* journal.

Until now, the bamboo shrimp's presence in India remained uncertain because no verified specimens had been recorded since a 1951 report, which lacked strong morphological evidence.

The species has now been documented from two locations — Mulki-Pavanje estuary in Mulki, Karnataka, and Kuakhai River in Bhubaneswar, Odisha — bringing clarity to a taxonomic confusion that persisted for decades.

The confirmation not only updates the country's freshwater biodiversity records but also underscores the need for systematic surveys and genetic validation to avoid misidentifications that can hinder conservation efforts, the researchers said.

Speaking to *DH*, senior researcher Prakash said the team used an integrative approach, combining traditional morphological examination with DNA-based identification. This method enabled Kunjulakshmi to resolve the long-standing confusion surrounding India's native freshwater shrimp.

▸ Shrimp, Page 4A

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Cop suspended after 'stealing' Rs 11 lakh from seized car

BENGALURU, DHNS: A head constable posted at the cybercrime police station has been suspended after allegedly stealing Rs 11 lakh in cash from a seized car parked in the basement of the Bengaluru police commissioner's office.

The suspended, Zabiulla I Gudiyal (48), was part of a cybercrime police station (CCPS) team that had tracked a cybercrime suspect to Devanahalli a month ago. The suspect abandoned his vehicle and fled. While the team secured the car, Gudiyal allegedly found a bag in the boot, hid it from his colleagues and quietly took it home.

The matter surfaced when the suspect, after securing anticipatory bail, returned to reclaim his car. On opening the boot, he found his bag missing. It reportedly contained Rs 11 lakh in cash, a high-end watch, a gold ring, a mobile phone and sunglasses.

He alerted CCB officials, who verified the surveillance footage from the commissioner's office. The video allegedly shows Gudiyal walking away with the bag. Although the suspect did not file a formal complaint, the evidence prompted a probe.

A CCB team raided Gudiyal's house for inquiry, during which his family allegedly created high drama. Officers recovered only Rs 2 lakh, hidden under a bed. Investigation revealed that Gudiyal had used part of the stolen cash to buy jewellery for his wife. He has returned the seized amount, and senior officers have instructed him to repay the remaining sum immediately.

The incident has deeply embarrassed the department, given that the theft took place inside a high-security police zone. A suo motu case was registered against Gudiyal and two other personnel who had escorted the accused for interrogation.

A senior police officer said that an FIR has been registered against Gudiyal at Vidhana Soudha police station on Thursday and Gudiyal likely to be arrested shortly as part of the investigation.

AIR OF OPTIMISM City's AQI good to satisfactory; monitoring gaps remain

B'luru has cleanest air among big cities, but can it last?

BENGALURU, DHNS

As other parts of the country struggle to deal with smog and pollution, especially during winter, Bengaluru continues to have the cleanest air among metros. However, it remains far from good, slowly inching towards unhealthy levels.

Bengaluru has maintained a steadily moderate level of air quality over the years. Its AQI has largely remained in 'satisfactory' or 'moderate' category.

As per national standards, an AQI in the range of 0-50 is considered 'good,' 51-100 is 'satisfactory', while 101-200 and 201-300 fall in 'moderate' and 'poor' ranges, respectively. Anything beyond that falls in the range of 'very poor' and 'severe'.

However, despite Bengaluru's steady AQI record, air quality in the city appears to be falling.

Citizens, especially in East Bengaluru, have raised caution about worsening air quality in winter months. While some blamed illegal garbage burning, others pointed to growing number of vehicles on the road as well as increased construction.

As per data from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) website, AQI at Kadubeesanahalli peaked at 181 at 4 pm on Saturday.

Around the same time, AQI levels across six more locations were over 100, including BTM Layout, Jayanagar, Hebbal, Peenya (Shivapura), Silk Board and Mailasandra.

The KSPCB has 11 air quality monitoring stations across the city and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has three. Silk Board Junction saw the second highest AQI at 127, while Jigani saw the lowest at 48. AQI of Bapujinagar was not available due to insufficient data.

Bengaluru's day-to-day air quality is shaped mainly by local emissions and meteorological conditions, with the biggest influences coming from traffic congestion, domestic fuel use, construction activity and regional pollution transported from surrounding districts, says Palak Balyan, research lead, Climate Trends.

"Rush-hour traffic peaks in the morning and evening consistently raise PM2.5 and NO2 levels, while construction dust and on-road resuspension add to PM10 throughout the day, especially in dry months. According to source studies for Bengaluru (by TERI), domestic emissions and transport are dominant contributors, while regional boundary-layer transport adds nearly 18% to daily particulate levels. As a result, PM2.5 is the pollutant that most often pushes city's AQI to the moderate or poor category, followed by PM10 and NO2 during heavy traffic periods," she elaborated.

What's helping city's air quality?

Overall, the city's air quality remains satisfactory, said a KSPCB official.

"Of the 11 monitoring stations, most are in good or satisfactory range. We see only three locations where AQI peaks to moderate range — Hebbal, Mysuru Road (Kavika), and Silk Board Junction. There are no major points of concern," he said, adding that even in problematic areas, the AQI does not remain consistently high.

"There are traffic-prone areas, so sometimes air quality depletes due to high vehicular movement. But even if there's a spike in AQI, it needs to last for at least two days, for it to be considered poor air quality," he elaborated.

The KSPCB has 44 action plans in place to improve the city's air quality — this includes everything from banning two-stroke vehicles to regularly removing dust and silt from major roads. To understand the source of growing pollution, 44 action plans are being reevaluated and revised based on newer study reports, Eshwar Khandre, Minister of Forest, Ecology and Environment, told *DH*.

"Over the last decade, the city has benefited from early adoption of cleaner transport norms transition to BS-VI fuels, expansion of CNG usage in public fleets and introduction of a large electric bus network under BMTC. Bengaluru also moved faster on vehicle-emission testing and phasing out older commercial and diesel autos, which helped control traffic-related PM2.5 and NO2 peaks," said Palak, adding that large-scale road infrastructure projects like widening of key corridors, flyovers, and signal-free stretches have helped reduce idling emissions on several major routes.

But overall, weather remains the biggest factor in maintaining the city's air quality.

"This is largely because of its unique environmental and geographical advantages, despite rapid urban growth. The city sits at an elevation of about 900 metres, which naturally promotes better dispersion of pollutants compared to low-lying metros. Its moderate climate with frequent winds, relatively high atmospheric mixing and absence of extreme winter inversion events prevents pollutants from accumulating near the surface for long durations," added Palak.

The city also benefits from one of the longest monsoon seasons. Plus, Bengaluru does not experience severe winter inversion like North India.

An anti-smog gun installed outside the Vidhana Soudha. DH FILE PHOTO

A display board shows pollutant readings at the air quality monitoring station on the veterinary college campus in Hebbal on Saturday.

Inside the air monitoring station at Veterinary College in Hebbal on Saturday. DH PHOTOS/B K JANARDHAN

Can AQI be tampered with?

Researchers believe that while India's air quality measuring standards are already subpar compared to European standards, existing AQI monitoring stations do not paint an accurate picture even by those standards.

A researcher working with the state government believes monitoring stations need to be more widespread to get accurate representation.

"If you notice, most monitoring stations are placed in relatively clean and green neighbourhoods and extra care is taken to ensure that the area around it remains clean and free of smoke and garbage. How will this provide an average for the locality? To get an accurate picture, AQI must be monitored for the entire locality. Measure it in the residential area, school, main road and even the mall, and then take an average. That'll be more accurate," he said.

When DH visited the air quality monitoring station in Hebbal, monitors for various components were neatly stacked on top of each other inside a tiny room. This room is located on the campus of the veterinary college, a lush chunk of land surrounded by greenery.

Concert today to support kids with blood cancer

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kiara Academy of Performing Arts will host 'Let There Be Joy', their Christmas show in support of children with blood cancers, at 6 pm on Sunday.

The concert, being held in partnership with St John's Hospital, will feature contemporary hits for the season, a time of partying and celebration, woven together with spectacular as well as the Nativity story retold through traditional Christmas music and tableaux.

The venue is Jyoti Nivas Auditorium, Koramangala. For tickets, call 98801-00995.

Passport-style Seva Kendras across city for e-khata processing

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will open passport-style seva kendras for easy processing of e-khatas, Tushar Girinath, additional chief secretary, urban development department, announced on Saturday.

Of the nearly 21 lakh properties in the city, owners of only 8.2 lakh have applied for e-khatas. There is a need to get more property owners to apply for it, he said.

"BangaloreOne centres are trying to handhold people to apply for e-khata. However, they are also overworked and might not have time to help many of them. Hence, 10 passport-style seva kendras will be opened in each zone," Girinath said.

He said a special surveillance team had been formed to keep a watch on officials who do not process the applications fast. "We will also check all rejected applications to ensure that they are not unnecessarily rejected," he added. The ACS said measures were being taken to prevent harassment of people.

In addition, only 3,252 applications have been received for conversion of 'B' khata to 'A' khata, which officials attribute to a lack of awareness and confusion among people.

"Residents need to know that they first need to get an e-khata for their property and then apply for conversion. Many of them do not know about this and hence, there is confusion. We will try to create more awareness," Girinath said.

Prison warder held for smuggling prohibited items hidden in underwear

'Was selling contraband at high prices to jail inmates'

Rahul Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS

A prison warder has been arrested after allegedly attempting to smuggle in cigarettes and other contraband by hiding them in his underwear, police said.

Rahul Patil (32) was intercepted at gate-2 of the Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara around 6.50 pm on December 3, while reporting for his night shift.

Personnel of the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF), appointed on security checks, noticed repeated beeps during screening at the door frame metal detector.

A physical check and a scan by a hand-held metal detector revealed two packs of cigarettes (Gold Flake King) and 60 grams of a banned, thin paper-like substance hidden in the underwear of Patil's khaki trousers, police said.

KSISF personnel seized and sealed the items in the presence of police inspector (prison security) Manjula H P and forwarded them to the police with a complaint by jail superintendent Paramesh H A.

Based on the findings, police arrested Patil under Section 42 of the Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) Act, 2022, and other applicable provisions. He was later remanded in judicial custody after questioning.

"The prison warder was smuggling in the contraband to supply to inmates and high-profile undertrials. He was selling these at exorbitant prices to make easy money," a senior police officer said.

Patil joined the prisons and correctional services department in 2018 and was transferred to Bengaluru on June 29.

On September 11, Kalappa H Abachi, a staff member at the Parappana Agrahara prison, was arrested for smuggling in hashish oil and gutkha packets concealed in his peaked cap.

PE teacher arrested after hitting class 7 student on the face

BENGALURU, DHNS: A class 7 student at a private school was allegedly beaten by a physical education teacher for a minor transgression, leaving the boy with injuries on the face.

The teacher, 42-year-old Rajesh, wrote an apology letter after the boy's father filed a police complaint against him. Police later arrested him under Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act.

In his police complaint, the boy's father alleged that the teacher hit the 12-year-old in front of other teachers in the school on December 5. The assault left the boy with a swollen face, and he was not allowed to leave the school until 5.30pm.

Non-bailable offence, attracts three years imprisonment

Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act is a non-bailable offence, and courts have repeatedly held that when a teacher, in a moment of uncontrolled anger or rage, inflicts serious injuries causing physical or mental suffering to a child, such conduct squarely attracts more than three years' imprisonment, according to a senior police officer.

When the boy did not return home after school hours, his father came looking for him and was shocked to learn about the assault. The father took the boy to a private hospital for treatment and filed the police complaint the next day.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the boy allegedly moved the chair of a fellow student when he tried to sit in the classroom. The classmate suffered minor injuries and complained to the teachers.

Bengaluru-Manvi non-AC bus service

BENGALURU, DHNS: The KSRTC has announced a new non-AC sleeper bus service connecting Bengaluru and Manvi.

The service will operate via Tumakuru, Hiriyur, Ballari, Siruguppa and Sindhanur, leaving Bengaluru at 9.30 pm daily and reaching Manvi at 5.45 am.

The return service will start at 8 pm and reach Bengaluru at 4.15 am.

The fares are as follows: Bengaluru-Ballari: Rs 767; Bengaluru-Siruguppa: Rs 889; Bengaluru-Sindhanur: Rs 924; Bengaluru-Manvi: Rs 990. Tickets can be booked on the KSRTC's official website.

Cultural fest at United Composite PU College

BENGALURU, DHNS: Vibrance 4.0, the annual cultural fest of United Composite PU College, was celebrated on Saturday, bringing together students from different institutions for a day filled with creativity, competition and collaboration.

This year's theme, 'High on life, not on drugs', was designed to highlight enthusiasm, positivity, and artistic expression while delivering an anti-drug awareness message.

The programme featured on-stage and off-stage competitions, including Dazzling Divas (group dance), Runway Revolution (fashion show), Rhythm Reign (solo dance) and Turn Down Throwdown (battle of bands).

Off-stage contests included Fun Flashes, Digital Delight, Drip and Doodle, True Colours, AD-Mania, The Bite Battle and Reel Escape, among others.

The fest culminated in the evening with a Concert Night and DJ Night, featuring Thamarassery Churam live on stage, followed by electrifying mixes from Benji Beats.

The Thamarassery Churam band performs on stage at Vibrance 4.0 on Saturday.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Corrigendum no-3 dt: 02.12.2025

Sl. No. 1, Item: Last date & time of submission of tender, **As published in NIT : JBP-PROJECT-EPC-2025-01 dtd. 25.10.2025 on IREPS :** 09.12.2025 upto 11:00 hrs., **Modified date on IREPS :** 16.12.2025 upto 11:00 hrs. **Note:** Remaining items shall remain same and unaltered. **(Sd.)**

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Project)
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

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Revision Petition No. 4410/2012
(Against the order dated 27.03.2012 in Appeal Number A/1707/2011 of the State Commission, Karnataka)
CHANDRAMMA ... PETITIONER/ APPELLANT
-Versus-
SHIVAJYOTHI TOWNSHIP PROMOTERS PVT. LTD., ... OPPOSITE PARTY/RESPONDENT(S)
To, **SHIVAJYOTHI TOWNSHIP PROMOTERS PVT. LTD., THROUGH THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, SHRI S.H. BHASKAR REDDY, NO. 5, 2ND FLOOR, 9TH MAIN, 13TH CROSS, SECTOR-6, HSR-LAYOUT, BENGALURU - 560012, KARNATAKA.**
NOTICE
WHEREAS **CHANDRAMMA vs. SHIVAJYOTHI TOWNSHIP PROMOTERS PVT. LTD.,** has filed a Revision Petition No. 4410 of 2012 against the order dated 27.03.2012 in Appeal No. 1707/2011 of the State Commission, Karnataka. The abovementioned Revision Petition is pending before the National Commission, New Delhi wherein you have been arrayed as Respondent.
WHEREAS this Commission has ordered vide order dated **13.02.2025 & 15.10.2025** to effect service upon you by this Publication returnable on **22.12.2025.**
NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that you are hereby directed to appear before this Commission in person or through your counsel/authorised representative on **22.12.2025** at **10:30 A.M.,** failing which the Petition will be disposed of ex-parte on merits.
Dated: 30.10.2025. SECTION OFFICER

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221
Auction Notice No. 01/2026
No. S/RWP/Sale/Auction Programme/ 2025 -26 Date: 03.12.2025 Auction will be conducted for disposal of scrap material Slag, Graphite Mould Blank and Other Misc. Scrap. **The date of e-Auction Programme for the month of January, February & March-2026. SN** : 1, **Depot conducting Auction** : RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction** : 09.01.2026, **SN** : 2, **Depot conducting Auction** : RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction** : 16.01.2026, **SN** : 3, **Depot conducting Auction** : RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction :** 29.01.2026, **SN :** 4, **Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction** : 13.02.2026, **SN** : 5, **Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction** : 20.02.2026, **SN** : 6, **Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction** : 27.02.2026, **SN** : 7, **Depot conducting Auction** : RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction :** 06.03.2026, **SN :** 8, **Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction** : 13.03.2026, **SN** : 9, **Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction** : 20.03.2026, **SN** : 10, **Depot conducting Auction** : RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction** : 27.03.2026, **1.** The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at **www.ireps.gov.in**. **2.** The intending purchasers may inspect the screap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. **3.** To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. For further details regarding registration and other condition of e-auction, please visit railway website **www.ireps.gov.in.**
Dy. Chief Material Manager-II/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2025-26/84

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ऑनलाइन ONLINE
Course Duration: 5 Days Course Date- 15 to 19 December 2025
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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम चाईबासा
पत्रांक :–.....चाईबासा / दिनांक.....
:: शुद्धि –पत्र ::
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 2016 दिनांक 17.11.2025 द्वारा प्रकाशित अति अल्पकालीन ई– निविदा सूचना सं० **RDD/SD/ CHAIBASA/80/2023-24(6th Call)** में निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है। जिसका **PR No. 366423 West Singhbhum(25-26):D** है।
1. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 10.12.2025 से दिनांक 19.12.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
2. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –20.12.2025 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे

ह०/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
प० सिंहभूम चाईबासा
PR 367916 West Singhbhum(25-26)#D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, लातेहार
शुद्धि पत्र–सूचना
इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना जिसका ई–टेन्डर रिफरेंस संख्या– RCD/ LATEHAR /1044/2025-26, दिनांक – 01.12.2025, P.R. No.-367410 Road (25-26)#D एवं कार्य का नाम – मनिका से हेरहंज भाया मटलौंग पथ के चैनेज 27वें कि0मी0 में अवस्थित खपिया नाला पर सेतु निर्माण कार्य है। उक्त में अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नवत संशोधन किया जाता है:–

क्र0	कार्य का विवरण	पूर्व में उल्लेखित तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
1	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	28.12.2025 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक	29.12.2025 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
प०नि0वि0 पथ प्रमण्डल लातेहार
PR 367835 (Road)25-26*D

Rs 4,800-cr works in progress to transform city roads before monsoon: ACS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Works to the tune of Rs 4,800 crore are in progress on Bengaluru's roads and most will be completed before the next rainy season, making commuting better, Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development Department), said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, he noted that no long-term solutions were undertaken to improve the quality of arterial and sub-arterial roads in the city over the last decade.

"Hardly any money has been spent in the last 8-10 years on arterial and sub-arterial roads. We have now taken up various works that will improve the quality of these roads and prevent potholes from appearing again and again," he said.

Among the major ongoing works are white-topping of 157.39 km of roads, black-topping of 392.39 km of roads, and 78.98 km of high-density corridor works. That apart, nearly 400 km of roads are still under the Defect Liability Period (DLP) and the contractors will be held responsible to repair any potholes on these roads, Girinath said.

The Rs 4,800 crore includes funds from the state government, investment from the GBA, and grants provided under the Brand Bengaluru initiative.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao noted that 22,539 potholes had been filled in the city since April.

"The rains delayed the work. However, we have taken measures to fill all potholes that were reported on our app," he added.

No white-topping on MG Road

The GBA has dropped the plan to white-top MG Road. The decision was taken after the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) refused to provide approval for road closure since the road witnesses heavy traffic.

"We do not want to wait till the road condition deteriorates. Hence, we have instead decided to black-top it in a phased manner to prevent public inconvenience," Girinath said.

Bamboo shrimp rediscovered after 7 decades

Shrimp, From Page 3

Santos elaborated that the study settles a major uncertainty regarding the presence of the genus atyopsis in mainland India. "The original 1951 report mentioned Atyopsis moluccensis (another species in the atyopsis genus), but lacked detailed morphological validation. Its absence in subsequent records led many to doubt whether the genus was ever part of India's freshwater systems," he said.

The current findings, supported by both morphology and DNA sequencing, confirm that the species rediscovered is Atyopsis spinipes, not Atyopsis moluccensis. The two species are distinguishable based on the shape and armature of the rostrum and the proportions of the male's first pleopod.

The search for the bamboo shrimp began in 2022 after an aquarium hobbyist in Odisha reported sighting a mature individual. Although the shrimp died before scientists could examine it, the sighting renewed interest and prompted the team to start systematic field investigations across Udupi, Karwar, and Mangaluru — regions where rivers have a mix of tidal and freshwater characteristics.

During the surveys, the team collected four female specimens from a waterbody in Mulki and an additional sample in Odisha. DNA analysis showed that specimens from both states belonged to the same species. Furthermore, reexamination of historical specimens labelled as Atyopsis moluccensis from the Andaman Islands stored in Zoological survey of India, Kolkata, showed they were mislabelled and they too belonged to Atyopsis spinipes.

All collected specimens from the study have now been deposited at the National Zoological Collections of the Southern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Chennai, for future reference, said Santos.

Kunjulakshmi said the rediscovery highlights how many freshwater species in India may remain undocumented, especially at a time when rivers and wetlands face growing threats from pollution, sand mining, bridge construction and habitat degradation.

"We believe Atyopsis spinipes exists in very small populations and may be vulnerable to environmental disturbances," she added.

PV Quiz Championship: B'luru zonal round on Dec 15

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru zonal round of the Prajavani Quiz Championship will be held on December 15.

The venue is RV Auditorium, RV Teachers College, RV Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block. Only students of classes 7 to 10 can participate.

Any number of teams can participate from one school but there must be at least two members in a team. Entry is free for all. Spot registrations begin at 9 am.

For more information, call 7338018541 between noon and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

BJP, farmers to lay siege to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra on Wednesday said that leaders and members of his party, along with around 9,000 farmers, would lay siege to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on December 9 to protest the Congress government's apathy to the plight of farmers.

"The BJP wants the government to resolve several issues of farmers including their demand for the release of Tungabhadra river water for second crop," Vijayendra told reporters in Bengaluru.

The BJP and JD(S) would raise the problems of North Karnataka for discussion during the first week of the Winter Session starting from Monday, said Vijayendra. The Karnataka BJP chief lamented the state government's "failure" to address the sugarcane farmers' woes.

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CREDAI BENGALURU

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Vintage car rally in support of the fight against drug abuse and smuggling: Home Minister G Parameshwara to flag off: DG&IGP M A Saleem to be present: Vidhana Soudha, 9 am.

Armed Forces Flag Day: Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to preside over: G Parameshwara, K V Sarath Chandra; Department of Soldiers Welfare and Rehabilitation; Glass House, Raj Bhavan; 10 am

Bengaluru Literature Festival: Freedom Park; 10 am onwards.

Global Warming and Agriculture Awareness Conference: Participants: G S Jayadeva, K P Suresh, Avinash, Nagesh Hegde, M C Narendra, K C Shiva Reddy, Keshava Malagi; Sri Ramakrishna Samagra Shikshana Kendra (Ragi Kana), Gottigere; 10.30 am.

Suresh Patil's 'Sannidhi' book release by Manu Baligar: Godhuli Kannada Sangha, Sumeru Trust, Aisiri Prakashan: Seshadripuram College, Seshadripuram; 10 am

CULTURAL

Singing tribute to H S Venkateshamurthy, Vocals: Aparna Narendra, Nitin Rajaram Shastri: Vikasana Trust, Venue: Sri Shankara Kripa Hall, Sringeri Sharadamba Temple, Girinagar; 4 pm

'Shri Haribhakti Nada Yatra' Karnataka, Hindustani Music Concert: Venkatesh Sharma, Violin: C N Chandrasekhar, R Achyuta Rao, Shruti C V, Mridangam: Anur Ananthakrishna Sharma, N Vasudeva, Ravi Shankar Sharma K V, Tabla: Gurumurthy Vaidya, Kaushik Bhat, Shourie Shanbhag, Rupak Vaidya, Harmonium: Madhusudan Bhat, Neeta Ajay, Vignesh Bhagwat; Samanvita Sangeet Parampara Trust; JSS Public School Auditorium, Second Stage, Banashankari, from 8 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.6°C
Minimum	17.9°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	72%
Sunset (Dec 7)	5:52 pm
Sunrise (Dec)	6:29 am
Moonrise	7:23 pm
Moonset	7:47 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

PI burnt alive in car crash

DHARWAD, DHNS: Haveri Lokayukta police inspector Panchakshari Salimath (42) burnt alive when the Hyundai i20 car in which he was driving hit a road divider near Bhadrapur in Annigeri taluk on Friday evening and subsequently caught fire. According to police, the car crashed into the road divider and fell into a roadside ditch. The impact left the fuel tank damaged, triggering a fire. The Annigeri police and fire personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames.

IndiGo crisis: Special trains to link Bengaluru with other cities

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways will operate special trains connecting Bengaluru and other cities to help passengers stranded due to the mass cancellation of IndiGo flights.

Bengaluru-Chennai

Train number 06255 will leave KSR Bengaluru at 8.05 am on December 7 and reach Chennai Egmore at 2.45 pm.

Train number 06256 will leave Chennai Egmore at 3.45 pm on December 7 and arrive at KSR Bengaluru at 10.45 pm.

Train number 06257 will leave KSR Bengaluru at 8.05 am on December 8 and reach Chennai Central at 2.45 pm.

Train number 06258 will leave Chennai Central at 4.10 pm on December 8 and reach KSR Bengaluru at 10.45 pm.

Bengaluru-Delhi

Train number 06259 will leave Yeshwantpur at 7 am on December 7 and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin at 3 am on December 9.

Train number 06260 will leave Hazrat Nizamuddin at 11.50 pm on December 9 and reach Yeshwantpur at 7.45 pm on December 11.

Train number 06569 will leave Yeshwantpur at 7 am on December 8 and reach Hazrat Nizamuddin at 3 am on December 10.

Train number 06570 will leave Hazrat Nizamuddin at 11.50 pm on December 10 and reach Bengaluru Cantonment at 7.45 pm on December 12.

Bengaluru-Pune

Train number 06263 will leave KSR Bengaluru at 7.30 pm on December 7 and reach Pune at 2.30 pm on December 8.

Train number 06264 will leave Pune at 3.30 pm on December 8 and reach Bengaluru Cantonment at 9.30 am on December 9.

Train number 01413 will leave Pune on December 6 and reach KSR Bengaluru the next day.

Train number 01414 will leave KSR Bengaluru at 1 pm on December 7 and reach Pune at 5 am the next day.

Bengaluru-Kolkata

Train number 08073 will leave Santragachi (Kolkata) at 2.45 pm on December 7 and and arrive at Yelahanka at 12.55 am on December 9.

Train number 08074 will leave Yelahanka at 4.45 am on December 9 and reach Santragachi at 2 pm on December 10.

Bengaluru-Vizag

Train No. 08501 Visakhapatnam- SMVT Bengaluru Express Special will leave Visakhapatnam at 3.20 PM on 08.12.2025 and reach SMVT Bengaluru at 12.45 PM on next day.

Train No. 08502 SMVT Bengaluru- Visakhapatnam Express Special will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 03.50 PM on 09.12.2025 and reach Visakhapatnam at 01.30 PM on the next day.

Bengaluru-Kochi

Train number 06147 will leave Ernakulam at 4.20 pm on December 7 and reach Yelahanka at 8.30 am the next day.

Train number 06148 will leave Yelahanka at 10 am on December 8 and reach Ernakulam at 10.15 pm on the same day.

Bengaluru-Ajmer

Train number 09601 will leave Ajmer at 8.15 pm on December 7 and reach Bengaluru Cantonment at noon on December 9.

Train number 06575 will leave Yeshwantpur at 7 am on December 10 and reach Ajmer at 10.30 pm the next day.

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STRANDED AT KIA

Flyers face financial, emotional & professional turmoil

Nearby hotels hike room rent, passengers plan to sue IndiGo

ASHWIN B M & ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Passengers stranded at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) are dealing with trauma far beyond missed flights — with financial, professional and emotional costs.

Passengers passing through Bengaluru on connecting flights are left scampering trying to figure accommodation for the night after their flights to their destinations were cancelled at the last minute.

Unaware of the transit hotels at the airport, in both terminals, some planned to opt for hotels in Devanahalli or Hebbal.

"The IndiGo staff had no response and told us about the five-star hotel on the airport premises as the option. Instead of paying for that, I might as well pay Rs 40,000 for the return flight and head back home. I'm also looking up hotels near the airport," said Luv, a Delhi-bound passenger.

An Assamese family of four, heading to Goa, planned to get in touch with family friends to seek refuge.

Some passengers, like a marathon runner, missed their international race and subsequent US travel plans. A pregnant woman was left stranded, over 2,000 km from home.

Sukhen Padmanabha, a passenger, estimates losing over Rs 50,000 on non-refundable hotel and onward cab bookings.

Madhumitha, a US-returnee, said nearby hotels like Bloom, were cashing in on the opportunity and demanding Rs 10,000, "a 100% jump from usual Rs 5,000."

Elizabeth, an Australian tourist, said: "We're stranded here now. The flight has been cancelled, and now we're cancelled for two days. We have to pay for a hotel and all these things. It's now two days late for our ayurvedic treatments all our plans are affected."

Passengers stranded at the departure gates of Terminal 1 at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, on Saturday. DH PHOTO/JANARDHAN BK

Shabana, who is travelling with two small children, lamented: "Our flight was cancelled yesterday, then they rebooked, and today they cancelled again. I've been waiting with a baby for hours, and we still don't know the status."

Balachandran, from Thiruvananthapuram, said: "We checked in at Raipur, and they told us the flight to Thiruvananthapuram was confirmed. But when we reached here at noon, they are now telling us it is cancelled. No messages, nothing. Now they say take a refund. We planned this three months back, and now there are huge losses for us."

A Sabarimala pilgrim said: "We came from Hyderabad for the Sabarimala pilgrimage. We are missing our darshan dates. The airline is not responding."

Sanjeev Mehta, another stranded passenger, said: "I booked my ticket a long time ago. My Ranchi flight was cancelled, so they rerouted me from Deoghar to Goa. I managed to reach Deoghar, and now they say the flight from Bengaluru is cancelled again. It's been cancellation after cancellation. I've been roaming in the airport for two days. The situation is terrible."

Under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) rules, airlines are obligated to provide a full refund or alternate flight, along with meals, refreshments and sometimes accommodation for delays and cancellations. However, current regulations do not explicitly cover consequential or indirect expenses like missed onward travel or non-refundable bookings.

Many passengers are now calling for a collective effort to sue IndiGo to force accountability for these direct and indirect losses, arguing that the crisis was foreseeable as the airline was allegedly aware of the pilot shortage and yet continued to issue boarding passes.

The financial regulator has already ordered IndiGo to trace all separated baggage and deliver it to the passengers' homes within 48 hours, but for many, the damage both emotional and financial has already been done.

B'luru lit fest opens: Talks cover pluralism, AI, crime-fiction

Burning issues, creative pursuits take centre stage

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 14th Bangalore Literature Festival kicked off on Saturday, drawing roughly 15,000 people to panel discussions on topics ranging from male insecurities and artificial intelligence to language imposition.

Some found the new venue, Freedom Park (Bengaluru's former central jail), with its pale-yellow high walls, central watchtower and lush greenery against a bright blue sky, a fitting backdrop.

The festival, however, was hit by the IndiGo crisis, causing three panels on the inaugural day to be cancelled, while three others proceeded with fewer speakers. About 20 of the 285 authors slated for two-day of the festival will not be attending. Most sessions held drew packed audiences and frequent applause.

In the 'Should a Country Speak a Single Language?' panel, cultural activist G N Devy and 'Heart Lamp' translator Deepa Bhasthi advocated for multilingualism.

Deepa said speaking multiple languages expands one's ability to express and understand the world, while Devy warned, "Pushing a country toward monolingualism is the first step toward becoming fascist".

In 'What Do Men Fear?', panelists examined how patriarchal expectations of being "protector, provider, and procreator" weigh on men, and the need for spaces where they can reflect and be vulnerable.

Kartikeyan V said men are often trapped in dilemmas like "belonging versus shame" and "self versus family".

Sonora Jha struck a chord with the audience, citing the famous quote: "Men are afraid that women will laugh at them. Women are afraid that men will kill them."

A section of the audience on Day One of the Bangalore Literature Festival on Saturday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

Dilip Pattubala added context, noting that men's self-worth is closely tied to their jobs, but the job market has been precarious in the last five years.

Boys are dropping out of school to provide for families, he illustrated.

Clare Mackintosh, British police officer-turned-author, had the audience in splits in her session 'Killers on the Loose'. She said she is always wondering "how to murder someone".

An audience member took the humour further, saying, "I lost five high-end bicycles in Britain and never got them back. Maybe the British police were busy writing crime fiction."

Clare explained that piecing together a compelling narrative is central to both policing and writing. She doesn't judge her characters, just as she wouldn't judge real people. Her early days on the force taught her that humans, under extreme circumstances, are capable of doing "terrible things". Crime fiction, thus, allows readers to make sense of "this chaotic world" and discover their own "happily ever after".

Elsewhere on campus, census enumerators highlighted how their work reveals the real lives behind statistics, often challenging common stereotypes.

Haseena Malnad pointed out that Muslim women, widely assumed to marry early, are in fact highly ambitious.

Children enjoyed enactments of Tenali Rama tales, book lovers queued to get their favourite authors' books signed and others waited their turn for live caricatures.

In a session at the Left Barrack, featuring Unboxing BLR CEO Malini Goyal and her Kannada translator Pratibha Nandakumar, the former shared insights about the writing of her book 'Unboxing Bengaluru: The City of New Beginnings'.

The not-for-profit is working on numerous projects — from setting up a startup tech museum documenting Bengaluru's and India's startup ecosystem and growth in the tech world to gathering crucial data about the city. "We hope to improve the city's soft infrastructure," Malini said.

The final session at the Left Barrack had a dramatic finish. Former spymaster Vikram Sood arrived just seven minutes before his session on the current world order was scheduled to end, yet managed to summarise the key arguments of his new book. He spoke of the decline of the US, the resurgence of Russia, and the reassertion of China, and warned that "If India misses the bus now, we will not be able to get up for 300 years".

On Dec 6 at lit fest, Banu Mushtaq talks about Ambedkar, Babri demolition

Kannada author Banu Mushtaq (L) delivers the keynote address 'Being Banu, Being Bandaya'. Moderator Prateeti Punja Ballal is seen. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
BENGALURU, DHNS

International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq directed audiences' thoughts to the poignancy of the date, December 6, in her keynote address at the Bangalore Literature Festival which opened on Saturday.

"December 6 is remembered for two different events in this country. On one hand, it is the day of Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar's 'parinirvana'. On the other hand, this day is a reminder of the demolition of the Babri Masjid which hurt the sentiments of people," said the lawyer, activist and writer, who delivered the address in Kannada and English.

"This time it is essential for us not only to see history from the point of destruction or pain it caused. But we must also think of what moral values to foster among people in the future," she stated, adding, "Therefore, December 6 is the day that sends a message to our collective consciousness that we must walk the path of humanity, pluralism, equality and brotherhood. The dark incidents in history should not weaken us, but they must remind us to guard the lights carefully".

In a conversation with moderator Prateeti Ballal following the address, Banu offered insight into the conceptualisation of some of her short stories in the Booker winning short story collection 'Heart Lamp'.

A devotional song she overheard a woman singing while travelling "haunted her for days" until she recognised it for its patriarchal undertones.

The session concluded with a story about how her tale 'Karinaagaragalu' landed a film deal.

Manifestation technique

"When I was grieving the loss of my father and struggling with suicidal thoughts, my husband got me a book 'The Power of Your Subconscious Mind'. It taught me the technique of manifestation. And for three months, I would manifest Girish Kasaravalli calling me with an offer to turn one of my stories into a film. When he finally called me, my first response was 'Which story do you want to turn into a film?'," she recalled.

'Hasina', the 2004 film adaptation of the story, tackles the themes of love, marriage, abuse and gender discrimination.

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Shashi Tharoor charms with 'A Wonderland of Words'

SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

The highlight of Day 1 at the Bangalore Literature Festival was a packed session featuring author-politician Shashi Tharoor and his niece, Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan.

Titled 'A Wonderland of Words', the discussion revolved around Tharoor's new book of the same name, which explores the quirks, histories and delights of the English language through essays, anecdotes and his signature wit.

Tharoor also addressed the growing belief that the use of the em dash signals AI-generated writing. He dismissed the idea, noting that writers have long used the em dash to emphasise clauses and create rhythm in sentences.

"People used it well before AI," he said, adding that its presence in a piece of writing cannot be taken as proof of AI authorship.

After the conversation, Tharoor took questions from the audience. When asked about the slang and dialect often called "Bangalore English," he said it couldn't be labelled wrong — only recognised as a dialect shaped by the city's culture.

Responding to a question about the difficulties of learning a new language in adulthood, with Kannada as an example, Tharoor noted that language learning depends largely on interest.

His advice: immerse yourself — watch "nonsense shows on television," listen to the city and let everyday conversations become your teacher.

Author-politician Shashi Tharoor was the toast of the audience. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

GP member murdered over banner quarrel

KADUR (CHIKKAMAGALURU DISTRICT), DHNS: A Congress-supported member of Sakharayapatna gram panchayat was murdered following a clash over the removal of a banner mounted for Datta Jayanti at Sakharayapatna, late on Friday night.

According to the police, the deceased is Ganesh Gowda (38).

Escalated into a fight

The quarrel began on Friday evening when an argument ensued between Ganesh Gowda and Bajrang Dal worker Sanjay, which soon escalated into a fight. Later, Sanjay and his friends allegedly assaulted Ganesh Gowda.

It is said that near the Kalmuradi Mutt, close to Sakharayapatna, Sanjay and his associates threw stones at the vehicle in which Ganesh Gowda and his associates were travelling.

Those accompanying him fled during the attack, leaving Ganesh Gowda alone. Another gang then allegedly attacked him with lethal weapons.

Severely injured

Ganesh Gowda was severely injured and admitted to the Chikkamagaluru Government Hospital, where he succumbed.

On Saturday morning, when the body was brought to Sakharayapatna, Congress workers staged a road block.

They raised slogans against the Bajrang Dal and the BJP, demanding the arrest of the killers.

Protestors pacified

MLA H D Thammaiah and leaders B L Shankar and Mahadimane Satish pacified the protestors.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Thammaiah said, "The Superintendent of Police has informed that five people have been taken into custody. Minister-in-charge K J George and I have directed the police to take strict action. We have instructed them to arrest all those involved, regardless of their influence. Ganesh Gowda's growing popularity was not tolerated by his rivals, which led to this act."

State's project against antimicrobial resistance yet to take off

Demands lot of planning, says health minister

AMULLYA SHIVSHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) project, unveiled by the Health and Family Welfare Department with fanfare in June 2025, is yet to see the light of the day.

The outlay of the intersectoral AMR plan focuses on combining the health of human, animals and the environment.

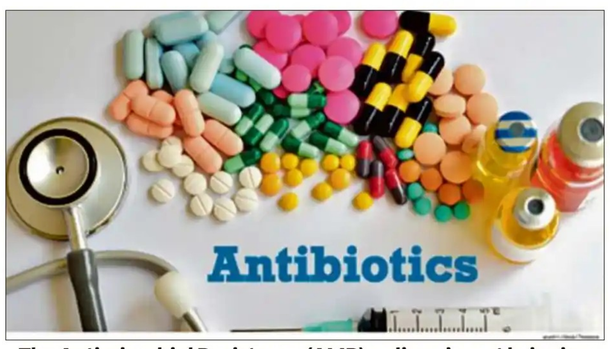
According to an action plan, the project will include an antibiotics policy for both government and private hospitals.

"Doctors will have to provide drugs based on the degree of the infection. If the infection is less and stronger drugs are prescribed, the body will become resistant to stronger drugs the next time," said a source from the AMR planning committee.

Stricter measures

The policy also aims at bringing stricter measures on antibiotics sold over the counter.

The sale of Schedule H drugs — those can be sold only with a valid prescription from a medical practitioner — will be monitored.



The Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) policy aims at bringing stricter measures on antibiotics sold over the counter.
DH PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

"The policy will also bring in cultural sensitivity and pathogen tests to customise the dosage and drugs for the particular geographical area," the source added.

Concentrating on the environmental aspects, the government will also make disposal of the biomedical waste stricter. Blood waste and other human fluids drawn at hospitals and diagnostics should be treated with liquid sodium hypochlorite before being discarded.

Unregulated usage

The policy will also take action against the unregulated usage of antibiotics on cattle, poultry animals and fisheries, which have increased the antibiotic resistance in humans.

"Farmers add antibiotics to feed or water to promote faster growth and prevent diseases in crowded farms. This needs to be regulated as the meat and other by-products of animals consumed by humans increases resistance," the source said.

While bigger hospitals have sewage treatment plants (STPs) and waste management set-ups, smaller hospitals and clinics are contributing to biowaste pollution and actions will be initiated, once the project kicks off.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dinesh Gundu Rao told *DH*: "The AMR project demands a lot of policy and planning, so it is a time-consuming process. Hopefully, we can start it soon but we do not have a definite date."

Not holding DL doesn't mean accident occurred due to rider's negligence: HC

Directs insurer to pay Rs 2.79L additional compensation to victim

BENGALURU, DHNS

Just because a motorcyclist didn't have a driving licence (DL) doesn't mean the accident occurred due to his negligence, the High Court of Karnataka has held and awarded enhanced compensation to the victim.

On April 25, 2018, Ranjith, a resident of Honnavalli village, Tiptur taluk, Tumakuru district, was riding on Tiptur-Huliyur road. According to him, due to rash and negligent driving of another motorcycle, his motorcycle met with an accident at Halenahalli. He sustained injuries, including fracture, and suffered permanent disability. He moved the accident tribunal seeking a compensation of Rs 15 lakh.

On March 23, 2021, the tribunal at Tiptur awarded him a compensation of Rs 6,22,295 with 7% interest. It directed Basavarajappa, the owner of the other vehicle, to pay the compensation on the grounds that he had no valid and effective driving licence.

The tribunal noted that the driving licence was valid from April 17, 2013, to April 16, 2018, and the accident occurred on April 25, eight days after the licence expired.

Ranjith, however, moved the high court seeking higher compensation, contending that the tribunal had awarded meagre compensation.

The family members of Basavarajappa (now deceased), also challenged the verdict.

Justice Umesh M Adiga noted that under the proviso to the unamended Section 14 of the Motor Vehicles Act, the expiry date of a driving licence shall be deemed to have been extended by 30 days, and the renewal may be made within that period.

"According to the proviso to Section 14, one month's grace period was given after expiry of the licence period. In view of the said proviso, the date of expiry of the driving licence is deemed to be extended by 30 days from the date of its expiry, and within that period, the said accident occurred. Under these circumstances, the finding of the tribunal that at the time of incident, rider of the said vehicle had no driving licence is not tenable, which required to be set aside," the court said.

The court further said, "Secondly, merely not holding a driving licence cannot be a ground to presume that the accident occurred due to the negligence of the rider of the motorcycle. The said proposition of law has been laid down by Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of 'Sudhir Kumar Rana vs Surinder Singh and Ors'."

Based on the notional income chart of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, the court assessed that Ranjith, an agricultural worker, earned Rs 12,500 per month and directed the insurer to pay Rs 2,79,000 as additional compensation along with 6% interest.

The compensation amount deposited by Basavarajappa's family was ordered to be returned to them.

No dip in vehicle efficiency, mileage with ethanol-blended petrol: Govt

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The use of ethanol-blended petrol (EBP) in vehicles has no negative impact on vehicle compatibility, any significant variations in performance or show abnormal wear and tear, says ministry of petroleum & natural gas.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha recently, it said oil companies and Government of India, after noticing media reports and social media concerns on E20 fuel use, formed an inter-ministerial committee. Studies by Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), after extensive field trials on vehicles with E20 fuel, did not indicate negative effect.

Experts and the public have highlighted that use of ethanol as fuel reduces efficiency as a majority of vehicles are not compatible with blending. They state that along with a drop in mileage, use of EBP could result in recurrent cost of repairing spares and affect longevity. "Even legacy vehicles on E20 don't exhibit big variations in performance or abnormal wear and tear. No issues reported in drivability, startability, metal compatibility and plastic compatibility," says the reply. The report from ARAI, SIAM and Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry says use of E20 fuel gives better acceleration, ride quality and lowers carbon emissions by 30% compared to E10. "Ethanol's higher heat of vaporization reduces intake manifold temperatures, increasing air-fuel mixture density and boosting volumetric efficiency," it says.

Deepak Ballani, director general of Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association, says, "None of the IOCs or vehicle manufactures has raised complaints on vehicles using E20. Multiple industries are conducting studies and none has given negative feedback," he says and adds there could be slight dip in mileage (2%-4%). "If a car is clocking 15 km per litre of petrol, E-20 blended fuel can give 14.8 km per litre. This is negligible given the multiple benefits to farmers and foreign exchange," he says. Government claims the EBP programme has resulted in farmers receiving Rs 1.36 lakh crore from supply of ethanol between 2014-15 and Oct 2025.

VTU to webcast evaluation process to curb malpractices

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to make evaluation a more transparent affair, besides seeking to put an end to the involvement of 'substitute evaluators', Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has decided to webcast the evaluation process.

This follows complaints of substitute evaluators working in the place of lecturers tasked with correction of papers. To that end, web cameras will be installed at evaluation centres, which will allow varsity officials to monitor the evaluation process in real-time. A facial recognition system will be used to verify the identity of evaluators thereby making it next to impossible for substitute evaluators to take their place. The entire process will be supervised from a central office in Belagavi.

Although evaluation centres were equipped with closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, they only registered the time of the evaluators' entry and exit. However, there was no system in place to prevent instances of substitute evaluators taking on the job of lecturers or ensure that evaluators were not shirking their duties.

The Visvesvaraya Technological University has already rolled out a digital evaluation system, wherein scanned answer scripts can be evaluated on computers.

Thousands of evaluators from the 253 affiliate colleges, which boast a cumulative strength of 300,000 students, are pressed into the job of evaluation each semester.

The VTU has already rolled out a digital evaluation system, wherein scanned answer scripts can be evaluated on computers.

"Web cameras are being installed at the evaluation centres and by January, the work will be completed," said VTU registrar (evaluation) Dr U J Ujwal.

VTU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Dr S Vidyashankar said that the decision to instal web cameras at evaluation centres was but one of the many student and evaluator-friendly measures taken by the varsity. "This will put an end to illegal activities," said the VC.

Tiger cub rescued under Nagarahole Tiger Reserve limits

MYSURU, DHNS: The personnel of the Forest department rescued a three-month-old female tiger cub at Gurupura Tibetan Colony, Gurupura village, Hunsur taluk, Mysuru district, under Veeranahosahalli wildlife range of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve (NTR), on Saturday morning.

This is the 23rd tiger rescued from October 16 in Bandipur and NTR limits.

According to NTR DCF P A Seema, the staff took up a combing operation on Saturday morning and rescued the cub around 10 am, following a complaint of tiger sighted in the village. It has been shifted to a safe place. They have taken up an operation to rescue its mother too. Once the mother is rescued, they will reunite and release them into the interior of forest region.

Meritorious students celebrate with their awards at the 28th convocation of Nimhans on Saturday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

Nimhans to expand capacity with Rs 938-cr projects

BENGALURU, DHNS

The National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (Nimhans) held its its 28th convocation on Saturday, announcing ambitious expansion plans worth Rs 938 crore to scale up patient care and infrastructure.

A total of 251 students received degrees and certificates, and 28 meritorious students were presented with excellence awards and medals at the ceremony.

Addressing the convocation online, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, stressed that Nimhans must redefine patient care as a proactive, data-informed journey incorporating precision diagnostics and individualised treatment pathways, ensuring that the "standard of care a patient receives in a remote district... should not differ from what they receive here in Bengaluru."

The minister focused on the impact of rapid technological change and the need for India-led research. Nirmala urged Nimhans to spearhead multidisciplinary research on the neurobiological impact of digital overload, including addictive social media algorithms and excessive smartphone dependency, which are "altering brain development and emotional regulation."

AI as an opportunity

She called on the institute to view AI as an opportunity to improve diagnostics, personalise treatment, build predictive models, and extend mental health support to the crores who currently lack access.

Nimhans Director, Dr Pratima Murthy, presented the annual report, highlighting the institute's achievements during its Golden Jubilee year. Key facilities like the Psychiatry Specialty Block, the Central Laboratory Complex, a 3T MRI Scanner, and a DSA System were inaugurated, significantly upgrading the institute's diagnostic and clinical capabilities.

The institute recorded its highest-ever patient services, welcoming 6,85,960 patients over the past year and performing over 8,000 surgeries.

A 300-bed Polytrauma Centre at the north campus was sanctioned by the Centre with a project cost of Rs 498 crore. This centre, coming up on a 40-acre plot in Kyalasanahalli, North Bengaluru, is set to provide advanced emergency and trauma care. Approval has also been granted for a new four-storeyed Outpatient Department (OPD) complex on the central campus, costing Rs 440 crore. This facility will house 590 clinics and consultation rooms, increasing the outpatient capacity to over 5,000 patients daily. A Museum for Brain and Mind is also set for establishment at an estimated cost of Rs 36 crore.

Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash R Patil, lauded Nimhans as a "lighthouse in the world of psychiatry, neurology, psychology and neurosciences."

Addressing the graduates, he stressed the need for human empathy alongside scientific rigor in the profession, calling them "frontline defenders of humanity" in the face of an unprecedented mental health crisis.

Patil announced two additional mental health institutes — one in Kalaburagi and another in Mysuru — each with an initial allocation of Rs 100 crore. These new centres will be developed in partnership with Nimhans.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE,
NORTH EASTERN RANGE, KALABURAGI
District Police Bhavan, G.G.H. Road, Kalaburagi – 585105
Phone No.: 08472-263605, e-Mail ID: igpner@ksp.gov.in

No.: Procurement/33/NER/CTRS/2025-26 Date: 05.12.2025

:: TENDER NOTICE ::

Tender is invited through e-procurement in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 from Authorised Agency (Firm) for installation of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems required by the Police Department. All details can be viewed in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
1) Tender Notice No.: KSP/2025-26/IND0448, 2) Tender Publishing Date: 05.12.2025, 3) Last date for obtaining any information regarding the Tender: 11.12.2025 up to 11.30 AM. 4) Last date for downloading the Tender Forms online and submission of Tenders through e-procurement portal: 19.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM 5) Date of opening Technical Cover: 22.12.2025 at 11.15 AM 6) Date of opening Financial Cover: 24.12.2025 at 11.00 AM 7) Approx. amount of Tender: **Rs. 1,40,00,000/-,** 8) EMD Amount to be paid with Tender: Rs. 2,80,000/- 9) Officer to be contacted and address, phone no. excluding holidays: Deputy Inspector General of Police, North Eastern Range, Kalaburagi, Ph. No.: 08472-263605

DIPR/Kalaburagi/825/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Deputy Inspector General of Police,
North Eastern Range, Kalaburagi

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Commissioner, 9th Main Road, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011

No.: BSCC/Com/PR/456/2025-26 **Date: 06.12.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORM-III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Commissioner, Bengaluru South City Corporation for **"Widening and Development of Surjapura Main Road from Ibluru Junction to Chikka Kannahalli ROB"** for implementing the proposal of the Approved Master Plan-2015 for the width of 45.0m.
The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.
The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR), BSCC and Greater Bengaluru Authority, N.R. Square, Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru-560002 within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Doddakannalli**

Sl. No.	Sy. No. / Khata No.	Type of land: Vacant	Type of land: Built up	Nature of Land: Agriculture Converted undeveloped / Approved layout / developed land / Building site	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Dimension	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Extent	Boundaries of the land / plot: East	Boundaries of the land / plot: West	Boundaries of the land / plot: North	Boundaries of the land / plot: South	Building Details: Extent in Sq.m	Building Details: Type of Construction and No. of floors	Building Details: Floor Area Ratio	Present activity on land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, individual house etc.,)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued
1	Sy No. 26/1	Vacant land		Commercial Converted Land	1352.07		Sarjapura Main Road	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 26/1	Chikkakannalli Village Boundary	Sy No.26/7	None	None	None	Vacant	1,53,576/-	Sri Mohan S. Manghnani S/o. S.B. Manghnani R/at No. 140, 4th Main, Defense Colony Bengaluru-560038.

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No.: ನಆಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No.: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಖ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024.
Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition and TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, GBA, Bengaluru-560002

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Commissioner, Bengaluru South City Corporation

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REQUIRED
Applications are invited from Graduate/Post-graduate candidates below 50 years of age with finance and customer centric background and experience in NBFCs or other FIs/ Banks on provisional basis for delivering value added services to customers in an enterprise with an asset base of around Rs.200 crores situated in Bengaluru.
Salary negotiable and no bar for right candidate.
Aspirants fulfilling the above criteria may send their softcopy of handwritten application along with passport size photo on or before **21st Dec. 2025** to below mentioned Email-ID.
Selection will be based on merit and competence followed by personal interview.
Email-ID: prasadancb@gmail.com

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Multiple Vacancy

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಮೆ॥ ವಿಸ್ಡಮ್ ಸೆಕ್ಯೂರಿಟಿ ಸರ್ವೀಸಸ್ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ವಿವರ	ಅರ್ಹತೆ (Qualification)	ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1.	ಹಾರ್ಡ್‌ವೇರ್ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆಂಟ್ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ)	ಬಿ.ಇ (ಐಟಿ)/ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕಮ್ಯುನಿಕೇಷನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ, ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಹಾರ್ಡ್‌ವೇರ್ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 2 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅನುಭವ.	1
2.	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕೇತರ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆಂಟ್ಸ್ (Non-Technical)	1) ಯಾವುದೇ ಪದವಿ ಅಥವಾ ತತ್ಸಮಾನ ಅರ್ಹತೆ. 2) ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿಯುಸಿ (12ನೇ) ಪಾಸ್, ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	1
3.	ಫೈರ್‌ಮ್ಯಾನ್ (ಟೆಕ್)	ಫೈರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇಫ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ ಅಥವಾ ತತ್ಸಮಾನ ಅರ್ಹತೆ.	1
4.	ಟ್ಯಾಲಿ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆಂಟ್	ಟ್ಯಾಲಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಿ.ಕಾಂ (B.Com)	1
5.	ಪ್ರಾಜೆಕ್ಟ್ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್ (ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಹಾಯಕ)	ಕೆಮಿಕಲ್ / ಎನ್ವಿರಾನ್ಮೆಂಟಲ್ (ಪರಿಸರ) / ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿ.ಇ ಅಥವಾ ಎನ್ವಿರಾನ್ಮೆಂಟಲ್ ಸೈನ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ. ಮೊದಲ ಶ್ರೇಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು.	56
6.	ಸೈಂಟಿಫಿಕ್ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್ (ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕ)	ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ., ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ (B.Sc., Chemistry)	25
7.	ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್	ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿಯುಸಿ (12ನೇ) ಪಾಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಟೈಪಿಂಗ್ (ಸೀನಿಯರ್) ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ.	54
8.	ರಿಸೆಪ್ಷನಿಸ್ಟ್ (ಸ್ವಾಗತಕಾರರು)	ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿಯುಸಿ (12ನೇ) ಪಾಸ್ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ.	1
9.	ಕ್ಲರ್ಕ್ (ಗುಮಾಸ್ತರು)	ಪಿಯುಸಿ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ.	51
10.	ಫೀಲ್ಡ್ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್ (ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಸಹಾಯಕ)	ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಿಯುಸಿ / 12ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ಪಾಸ್.	48
11.	ಡ್ರೈವರ್ಸ್ (ಚಾಲಕರು)	ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ (SSLC) ಪಾಸ್, ಮಾನ್ಯವಾದ ಡ್ರೈವಿಂಗ್ ಲೈಸೆನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	80
12.	ಪಿಯೋನ್ (ಜವಾನರು)	ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ ಪಾಸ್, ಕನ್ನಡ ಓದಲು ಮತ್ತು ಬರೆಯಲು ಬರುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ.	81
13.	ಭದ್ರತಾ ರಕ್ಷಕರು (Security Guards)	ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು.	147
		ಒಟ್ಟು	547

ಆಯ್ಕೆಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಸದರಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ, ಅನುಭವ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ನಿಯಮದ (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ–17%, ಎಸ್.ಟಿ–7%, ಒಬಿಸಿ–32%, ಜನರಲ್ ಮೆರಿಟ್ – 44%) ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ.
ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ 06.12.2025 ರಿಂದ 13.12.2025 ರ ಒಳಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ, ಅನುಭವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ, ಜಾತಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಾದ : ಮೆ॥ ವಿಸ್ಡಂ ಸೆಕ್ಯೂರಿಟಿ ಸರ್ವೀಸಸ್, ನಂ. 106, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, 40 ಅಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವೆಸ್ಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560010 ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.
ಅಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಹ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ : ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 99452 30204, 90359 16688, 99452 422768.

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ACHIEVE SCHOOL, 17th Main Road, Near SLV, BDA Complex, Siddanna Layout, Banashankari Stage II, Bengaluru- 560070 Mob: 91642-22288 Urgently Requires 1.SANSKRIT- Middle & High School 2.MATHS- Middle School 3.ENGLISH- Middle School 4.LIBRARIAN 5.SOCIAL TEACHER- High School

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TEACHER REQUIRED FOR PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND EVS contact Kenmore School Basavanagudi Jayanagar whatsapp 9901501185

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Sites

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SALE BDA 30x40 Anjanapura 5th G-block south facing 40x60 west facing commercial site 2nd block, 9620041313, 9945373839

Airport Road

"SALE SITE 40x60 BIAAPA approved before International Airport close to Defence & Aero park Rs.5900/- P.Sft. 9845286505"

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BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA- AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES- 9980863245/ 9945333993

AVAILABLE 30X40 North Facing Site Sale, 10th Block, 100 Feet Road Near, Contact: DEVARAJ 9993959099, 9799099699.

AVAILABLE 40X60 West Facing Site Sale, 10th Block, 40 Feet Road. Contact: DEVARAJ. 9993959099, 9799099699.

SALE BSK 6th stage 4th B-block 40x60 west facing 2Cr also 40x60 south facing 6th block 2.10Cr, owners 9945373839, 9620041313

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage 10th Block 40×60 North Facing 100ft Road Parallel Contact: 9738028011

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AKSHAYANAGARA 3562 SQFT A KATHA 11000/- NANDANAVANA 30x40, 40x60 3500/- NISARGA LAYOUT 50x80 5000/- 9449655947

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40X61 WF SITE SALE Clear Title, Immediate Settlment Old Airport Road, KHB 1st Stage: 8310681025

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ANEPALYA BANGALORE Property, 3360 sq ft. next to CMP Centre off Hosur Road available for sale. Buyers call 9844349701

Hebbal

HEBBAL 30X35 House Sale, Ground 1 BHK, Two Carparking, 1st 2 BHK, 2nd 2 BHK 9845623970/ 9739400838

Intl Airport Road

EMBASSY SPRINGS 50X80, Jade Gardens 100X100, Century Eden 40X50, Hollywood Town 60X80, Supreme Estates 9632974714

Kempegowda Layout

SITE FOR SALE 40X60 East Facing BDA 40 feet Road
Very Good Location Rs 8500/- Negotiable Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout Near Metro Station Contact: 6366711598

NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT BDA SITES SELLING/ BUYING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Genuine Buyers Call: 9632146784, 9731162167.

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Contact Kumar 9945119449

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"NAGARBHAVI/ VISHVESHWARAIAH / KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT 30x40,40x60 OR ANY MEASUREMENT SITES REQUIRED & AVAILABLE PREFERABLY OWNER/ ALLOTTE SITES. 9845268611"

"NAGARABHAVI DEEPA COMPLEX Sale 40x60 MPM Layout East North Corner 80% White, Immediate Registration. 9448432633"

DIRECT OWNER 20x30, 30x40 Site House Nagarbhavi BDA Complex Near Metro Station: 9620696913/ 9880781399

Nandini Layout

NANDINI LAYOUT BDA 20x30 East facing, No.19, Narasimhaswamy Layout For Sale. Contact. 9845729728.

Out-Station

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Peenya

"PLOTS FOR SALE in Peenya 2nd Stage, DC.Conversion, East facing Adjacent Sites. 2220 Sqft & 2260 Sqft, Rs.7000/- Per Sqft. Contact: 9353057779"

Rajarajeshwari Nagar

RR.NAGAR BEML 5th Stage 6560 Sqft. West Facing, Vastu Site Sale, Suitable for Apartment Contact: 9448121223.

Sahakarnagar

SALE BDA NORTH FACING 40X60 SITE SAHAKARNAGAR NTI LAYOUT Rs. 21,000/- NEGOTIABLE CALL 9342235296 BROKERS EXCUSE

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SITE FOR SALE: 60X90 WEST FACING WOC ROAD RPC LAYOUT ONLY GENUINE BUYERS: 6363250343/ 9845038343

VIJAYNAGAR 40X60 West, 30x51 South, 35x51 North, 35x51 South, Vijaynagar Extn 30x40 House Duplex. 9448411596.

Vishweshwariah Layout

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Very Good Location Rs 2 Cr. Negotiable Visveswaraiah Layout 8th Block Contact: 9611577666

"30X40 NORTH FACING PRIME RESIDENTIAL BDA SITE SALE 1ST BLOCK VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT [GENUINE BUYERS]. 9845143579"

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Contact: 9035470616

"VISHVESWARAIAH 6TH-BLOCK 60ft Road 75 Squares Building on 50x80 South facing for sale. 9845500019/ 7019314962"

DIRECT OWNER 30x40 E/F VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, Near 100 feet Road, Rs.9000/- Contact: 9742681666, 9886634578

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 6TH BLOCK 30X40 WEST NEAR OXFORD COLLEGE 40X60 NEAR KLE COLLEGE: 8892901567

'DIRECT OWNER' 20x30 N/F Vishveswaraiah Layout 2nd Block, Near Kommagatta, Full Developed Area: 8496030007/ 8310885235

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House

Vidyaranyapura

INDEPENDENT 60'X40' BEL 2 Block Prime Location (4 BHK Duplex) 16000/- S/F Semi Furnished :9844264852

Mysore

MYSORE MUDA Site Vijayanagara, 2nd Stage, South West Corner, 3912 Sqft, Site No. 1387, Price 13500/ Sqft Negotiable: 9845059328

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HOUSE & Site For sale 30×40,40×60 East&North Facing For Sale BTM 2nd Stage.Rathnakar: 9945377119/ 9844099557

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JAYANAGARA 40X52 (2100sft) BDA Property For Sale Living Condition 4BHK Independent House Excellent Location Clear Title 9845341034

J P Nagar

JPNAGAR 5TH PHASE VINAYAKANAGARA OLD HOUSE (30'X40') SALE 2CRORE FETCHING RENTAL INCOME 1LAKH CALL:9448052264

Kumaraswamy Layout

KUMARSWAMY LAYOUT Near Dayananda sagar college Prime Location 40x64 East/South Corner Commercial old House Sale Call:9845069739 9380613718

Multiple Locations

WANTED / AVAILABLE PG BUILDINGS For Sale in Bangalore
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Vijayanagar

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Commercial Land

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Tumkur Road

SALE/ BUILT to suit 10 Acres Industrial Warehouse Land Opposite to Namaste Bangalore Hotel. 9141326819

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Sites

Banashankari

BDA SITES WANTED ARKAVATHY ANJANAPURA BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE VISHWESHWARAIAH KEMPEGOWDA ANY BDA LAYOUT: 9845062822/ 8660751654

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

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Caste No Bar
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, SUNIL Varghese K.P S/O Paul K.S residing at No.302, Vandana Eastwood, Haraluru Road, Somasandra Palya, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102. Have changed my name to Sunil Varghese vide affidavit dated 4/12/2025 before notary A.S Narayana Reddy.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHEKAR VELLIA BARNABAS S/o. VELLIA BARNABAS Residing at No.46, New No.221, Sapna, 8th 'C' Main Road, Sreenidhi Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097 have changed my Name to SHEKAR BARNABAS vide affidavit dated: 03.12.2025 Sworn before Notary Varija C.J., Bangalore.

I, BALARAMA S/o Mallikarjuna, residing at Bhovi Galli, Tq: Chincholi, Dist: Gulbarga, Karnataka, have changed my name to Balarama Chincholi. Henceforth, I shall be known by this name.

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ARITHMETIC OF SOCIAL JUSTICE HC orders tie govt hands on internal reservation, 50% cap breach

No quick fix in sight for state's quota quicksand

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS:

Two directives by the Karnataka High Court have put the Congress government in a tight spot.

On October 16, the court directed the government not to finalise recruitments that are being done following the implementation of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 6-6-5 formula.

On December 2, the court barred the government from making fresh recruitment as per the 56% reservation in the state. This has left the government worried about ramifications, legal and political.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chaired a closed-door meeting on the matter on Saturday.

In 2022, the Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government increased reservations for SCs from 15% to 17% and for STs from 3% to 7%.

This took the total quantum of reservations to 56%, breaching the 50% cap fixed by the Supreme Court in the Indira Sawhney case.

States like Tamil Nadu (69%) and Jharkhand (77%), which have breached the 50% cap, enjoy legal protection as their decisions are ring-fenced by the 9th Schedule of the Constitution.

Of late, courts have insisted on the 50% cap. When the Bihar government sought to increase reservations share in the state to 65%, the decision was struck down by the HC there. The Supreme Court hasn't stayed the HC's ruling.

Similarly, the Telangana HC imposed a stay on the state government's decision to hike OBC reservations by breaching the 50% cap. On October 16, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea by the Telangana government challenging the HC's stay.

Against this backdrop, there are serious concerns that Karnataka's 56% reservation may get struck down.

However, some experts questioned the logic behind the courts' insistence on 50% quota. They say the BJP-led union government's decision to introduce 10% quota for economically weaker sections also breached the 50% mark.

The issue of increasing quota share to 56% is intrinsically linked to internal reservation dispute, as the 6-6-5 formula of the government is based on the new 17% reservation for SCs.

The 17% reservation for SCs is divided into three parts: 6% for group A (SC left/Madigas), 6% for group B (SC right/ Holeya) and 5% for group C (Banjara, Bhovi, Korma, Korcha and 'most backward' communities).

Opposing this 6-6-5 formula, which grouped 59 'most backward' communities with the 'less backward' Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha communities, the confederation of untouchable SC communities of Karnataka has moved the HC.

The nomadic communities have been relentlessly protesting against the decision and seeking a separate 1% reservation as proposed by the 1-6-5-4-1 formula recommended by the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission's report, which oversaw a survey of SCs to decide on internal quota. They have also sought a separate board for nomadic communities and special package.

Though the government has agreed to their demands 'in-principle,' the confederation is disillusioned by the government's failure to fulfil its demands, and has warned of a stir at the winter session of legislature in Belagavi.

Sources said the government is considering many options, including a return to the earlier 15% quota for SCs. A source termed the potential quota reversal as 'inevitable' under current quota constraints.

Congress leader and former social welfare minister H Anjaneya, who hails from Madiga community, told *DH* that in the event of a return to 15% quota model, the formula suggested by A J Sadashiva Commission (6% for Madiga & affiliated communities, 5% for Holeyas & affiliated communities, 3% for Bhovi, Lambani, Korma and Korcha castes and 1% reservation for nomadic communities) was preferable.

Earlier, the government had planned to introduce a Bill supporting it's 6-6-5 formula for internal reservation, in winter session. This is now uncertain.

A file photo of a protest by nomadic communities seeking a separate 1% reservation for them, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru.

Nomadic communities seek 1% quota, warn of Belagavi Chalo

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Confederation of Untouchable Nomadic Communities of Karnataka has warned of launching an indefinite protest in Belagavi if the state government fails to provide a separate 1% reservation for nomadic communities.

In a press note, the confederation expressed disappointment that the Cabinet did not decide on the issue at its December 4 meeting.

"The main question is whether they will decide on the issue of 15% or 17% reservation or discuss the long-pending demand for 1% reservation for the Alemari (nomadic) communities," the note said.

Pointing out that there is currently a judicial stay on final appointments under the state government's 6-6-5 internal reservation formula, the confederation said that, irrespective of the government's decision or any legislation it may introduce, the recruitment process cannot commence without clarity on the 1% quota for nomadic communities.

"Protesting against the government's attitude towards nomadic communities, we are giving a call for 'Belagavi Chalo'. It will be an indefinite agitation, and we will pursue both legal and street-level protests," the statement added.

Opposition to formula

The confederation said nomadic communities are opposing the 6-6-5 formula, under which 59 'most backward' communities are grouped with 'less backward' communities such as Lambani, Bhovi, Korama and Koracha.

It pointed out that the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission had recommended a 1-6-5-4-1 formula. Apart from demanding a separate 1% reservation, nomadic communities are also seeking the creation of a separate corporation, excluding Korma and Korcha communities, and the announcement of a special welfare package.

Kumaraswamy has become Manuvadi, says CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday described Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy as a "Manuvadi" for seeking the inclusion of Bhagavad Gita in school curriculum.

Siddaramaiah was responding to a question on Kumaraswamy's letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on teaching the Gita to children for value-based learning.

Siddaramaiah

"After Kumaraswamy joined hands with BJP for elections, he has become a Manuvadi," Siddaramaiah told reporters after paying tributes to Constitution architect B R Ambedkar on his 69th death anniversary here.

On December 3, Kumaraswamy wrote to Pradhan on pan-India introduction of Gita in schools.

"The National Education Policy places strong emphasis on value-based education. Introducing selected teachings from the Gita will help inculcate moral strength, clarity of thought and character among students, thereby strengthening our demographic dividend and preparing our youth to excel globally," he wrote.

Earlier, the CM highlighted Ambedkar's contribution to the Constitution and his "relentless fight" to provide social justice.

"Ambedkar, towards the end of his life, gave up Hinduism and joined Buddhism. While he was born in Hinduism, he chose not to die in it. He couldn't reform Hinduism despite several efforts. So, he accepted Buddhism."

Vote Chori: State Cong collects 1.48 cr signatures

BENGALURU, DHNS: The D K Shivakumar-led Karnataka Congress on Saturday dispatched to the top brass an additional 5.07 lakh signatures for the party's 'Vote Chori' campaign. The total number of signatures collected is now 1.48 crore.

"Booth workers, district teams and volunteers approached the exercise as a collective exercise to protect democracy and restore faith in elections," Shivakumar, the deputy CM, said in a letter to his party's national chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's 'Vote Chori' campaign as "emerged as one of Karnataka's most impactful party & citizen-led movements," he said.

Earlier, Shivakumar travelled with Kharge in the same car to drop him at the airport. On the way, it is believed that Shivakumar and Kharge discussed the need for the party's top brass to provide clarity whether or not CM Siddaramaiah will continue.

AMBEDKAR LIVES ON

Students hold a candlelight vigil on Mahaparinirvana Day of Dr B R Ambedkar, in Kalaburagi on Saturday. DH PHOTO/TAJUIDDIN AZAD

It's harassment: DKS on Delhi police notice

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said the Delhi Police notice to him in the National Herald was "harassment" and vowed to fight it legally.

The Delhi police have asked Shivakumar for financial and transactional details as part of its probe into the National Herald case. The police said Shivakumar may have "vital information."

"It is very shocking to me. I have provided all details to ED. The ED had summoned me and my brother (former MP D K Suresh). There's nothing wrong. It's our (party) institution and we, being Congressmen, have supported it. There's no hide and seek. Everything is in black and white," he said. "It's our money. We can give it to anyone we like when we pay taxes."

There was "no need" for Delhi police to register a case after ED filed a charge-sheet, Shivakumar said. "We'll fight it in the court of law," he said. "What more can they do to harass Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others? They're trying to create confusion."

Asked if he will appear before the police on Dec 19, Shivakumar said he would examine the legal implications.

Undertrials assault prison staff

KARWAR, DHNS: Two undertrials assaulted prison officer and staff in the district jail in Karwar on Saturday.

Mohammed Abdul Fayan and Kaushik Nihal, both Mangaluru-based rowdy sheeters picked a quarrel with the staff and assaulted them, SP Deepan M N said.

A case has been registered in the town police station.

While Fayan faces over 12 serious cases, Kaushik is booked in 4. They were shifted to Karwar since Mangaluru jail is overcrowded. The injured Prison Superintendent Kallappa Gasti and others received treatment.

HC acquits man of abduction & rape, rules harsher punishment can't apply retrospectively

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has acquitted a man in an abduction-rape case, noting that retrospective application of harsher punishments breaches constitutional protections under Article 20(1), which prohibits imposing a heavier penalty than prescribed at the time the offence was committed.

The crime was registered in 2011, two years before the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, which prescribes harsher penal consequences, came into force. The victim, a II PU student, went missing from home on May 31, 2011, and based on her mother's complaint, police registered the FIR four days later. On June 9, the victim and the accused were traced to Tamil Nadu and brought to the Bellavi police station, Tumakuru district.

On June 28, 2014, the trial court sentenced the accused, a native of Kanchipuram, to eight years' imprisonment and fined him Rs 4,000 under IPC Section 376 (rape) and three years' imprisonment with a Rs 2,000 fine under IPC Section 366A (abduction).

Challenging the sentence, the accused argued that the statements of the complainant and the victim were contradictory and did not establish any element of inducement or coercion. He further contended that the girl had voluntarily accompanied him without any threat or force, and therefore the essential ingredients of kidnapping or abduction were not satisfied.

The accused also argued that the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, cannot be brought into force retrospectively from February 3, 2013, because the alleged offence was committed in May 2011. He pointed out that the alleged offence occurred prior to the amendment and that the girl's age was over 16. The unamended provisions must govern the case, and the retrospective application of the 2013 Act in this matter is impermissible and violative of constitutional safeguards, he stated.

He also relied on the binding principles enshrined under Article 20(1) of the Constitution, which prohibits the retrospective application of criminal laws that would impose a greater punishment than what was prescribed at the time of the commission of the offence.

Justice G Basavaraja noted that the prosecution had failed to prove the offences under IPC Sections 366A and 376 beyond reasonable doubt. "The presence of intact hymen, lack of injuries, and the victim's own admission of consensual relationship critically weaken the prosecution case," he said.

After perusing the Supreme Court judgements, the court noted that the principle of non-retrospectivity in criminal law is a fundamental tenet rooted in the maxim 'Nullum crimen, nulla poena sine lege' — no crime or punishment can be imposed without a pre-existing law.

"Hence, applying the amended provisions retrospectively in this case is impermissible. The maxim 'Lex prospicit, non respicit' i.e. 'the law looks forward, not backward" aptly encapsulates this principle, underscoring that laws must operate prospectively unless expressly stated otherwise. The trial court's application of the amended law with retrospective effect thus amounts to an infraction of constitutional protections and the settled principles of criminal jurisprudence, warranting reversal of the conviction and sentence passed under the amended statute," the court ruled.

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ದಕ್ಷಿಣ)

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ನಂ.ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಂಸಿ/63/04/2025-26 **ದಿ: 05-12-2025**

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ (ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 2023 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸನ್ 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42448/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 2)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.43605/2.94ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 3)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.43609/7.42ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 4)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.35457/49.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 5)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42780/7.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 6)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.44166/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 7)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42784/12.67ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 8)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.34991/35.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 9)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.47368/8.20ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ)ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 10)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.46147/11.35ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 11)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.46156/2.76ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 12)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.46108/7.35ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 13)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.46144/8.75ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 14)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.36329/42.68ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 15)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48112/5.83ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I 16)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48110/7.12ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 17)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48111/2.90ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 18)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48657/28.82ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 19)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48658/10.82ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 20)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.47246/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) 21)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48222/2.50ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 22)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48221/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 23)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.34890/3.80ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I 24)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48226/6.05ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 25)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48523/6.20ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 26)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48518/9.00ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 27)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48504/6.60ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) 28)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48512/6.40ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 29)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48514/4.50ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 30)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48547/5.72ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 31)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.44190/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 32)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51319/7.12ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 33)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51782/16.70ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 34)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48985/9.88ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 35)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.47686/3.91ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 36)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48989/2.62ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 37)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51683/2.15ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 38)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49733/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 39)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49593/9.70ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 40)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51690/4.36ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 41)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49731/3.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 42)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49729/47.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) 43)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49574/6.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I 44)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.44592/8.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 45)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.44586/7.45ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 46)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49581/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 47)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51691/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 48)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49363/12.30ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 49)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49525/38.22ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 50)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49597/4.85ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 51)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49364/7.705ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 52)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49362/22.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 53)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49361/5.49ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 54)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49365/2.96ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 55)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49048/2.95ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 56)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49801/10.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 57)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49730/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) 58)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.28315/ 10.50ಲಕ್ಷ /ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) 59)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ನಂ.49669/8.51ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 60)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ನಂ.49732/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 61)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52307/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 62)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52313/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 63)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52363/6.32ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 64)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52364/6.70ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 65)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52366/5.42ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 66)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52368/2.72ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 67)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52371/7.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 68)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52365/6.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 69)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52381/4.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 70)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52380/10.70ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 71)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52377/1.05ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 72)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52376/1.95ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 73)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ನಂ.52316/3.06ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 74)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52268/32.41ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) 75)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52315/4.57ಲಕ್ಷ/ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I 76)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51688/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 77)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51687/2.80ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 78)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52390/ 25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 79)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52392/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 80)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52393/1.90ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) 81)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52260/22.74ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I 82)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52257/21.42ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 83)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52445/40.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) 84)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.50852/12.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 85)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52495/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 86)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52263/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ), 87)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52499/11.09ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2024-25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 88)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.39253/7.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 89)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.36183/14.70ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 90)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42840/12.80ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 91)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.39256/6.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 92)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.39252/5.05ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 93)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.34041/2.00ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 94)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.33790/6.00ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 95)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.34038/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 96)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.34040/12.00ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 97)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.33802/12.00ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 98)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.37759/13.50ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 99)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.37468/18.89ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 100)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.33797/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 101)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42766/1.28ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 102)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42771/3.15ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 103)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.37357/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 104)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52270/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 105)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52237/8.08ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಉಪ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 106)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.36184/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 107)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.43159/8.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 108)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.40713/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 109)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51864/4.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗII(ಎ) ಸನ್ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಉಪ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 110)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51685/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪೂಜ್ಯ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 111)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.37772/5.00ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪೂಜ್ಯ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 112)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52379/7.20ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 113)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52378/10.25ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಾಮನಿರ್ದೇಶಿತ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 114)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.39668/21.30ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಾಮನಿರ್ದೇಶಿತ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 115)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.40719/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 116)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.40724/4.75ಲಕ್ಷ/ 3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 117)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48225/5.25ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) ಸನ್ 2023-2024 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿತ/ಮುಕ್ತ ಅನುದಾನದ ಉಳಿಕೆ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 118)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52215/30.80ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) ಸನ್ 2024-25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 119)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.47687/5.80ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 120)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.34107/14.00ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 121)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49734/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 122)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51025/7.50ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) 123)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.50091/8.30ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 124)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48980/25.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ 125)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52506/16.48ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2023-24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 126)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.20268/15.64ಲಕ್ಷ/6ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 127)ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.31079/49.25ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಹೆಸರು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಅವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಸದರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:10-12-2025** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26/12/2025 ಸಂಜೆ: 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ** ವರೆಗೆ
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29/12/2025** ರಂದು **ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ: 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ** ನಂತರ

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ದಕ್ಷಿಣ)
ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/951/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2025-26

Where is my baggage? Flyers battle new headache at KIA

Mayhem, From Page 3

Stranded travellers arriving from rerouted flights, like Rajani, reported a six-hour wait at the airport with no information on whether their bags were in Bengaluru or Delhi.

"We don't even know where the luggage is. Is it here? Is it in Delhi? Absolutely everybody...I just have to let it go," she lamented, adding that some people who were wearing the same clothes for two days have ordered a new pair of clothes online.

The situation was described by one passenger, Sukhen Padmanabha, whose flight to Amritsar was delayed and then cancelled, as resembling a "bus stand", with bags scattered everywhere and no clear system for retrieval.

He saw an elderly man collapse while pleading desperately for his mother's medicine, which was locked in the untraceable luggage.

Passengers spoke of being passed around, receiving contradictory information and seeing only one person manning a gate for hundreds of frustrated travellers.

Madhumita, a US-returnee, had her critical US biometric appointment jeopardised after her checked-in bag, containing her biometrics paper, was offloaded in Chennai, forcing her to travel by road to Chennai without her essentials, only to return to Bengaluru a days-long wait for her other bags.

Set up plaint redressal system for prisoners with disabilities: SC to states

Says appropriate facilities should be created for them

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court has directed all the states and Union territories to establish a robust, independent and accessible grievance redressal mechanism specifically designed for prisoners with disabilities.

The apex court said the mechanism shall ensure prompt registration, effective monitoring and timely resolution of complaints to safeguard the inmates from "systemic neglect, abuse and discriminatory practices".

A bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said appropriate facilities should be created to ensure that prisoners with disabilities have meaningful access to inclusive education within the jail system.

"No inmate shall be deprived of the opportunity to pursue educational programmes solely on account of disability, and suitable adjustments shall be made to facilitate their effective participation," the bench said in its December 2 order.

The bench passed the order on a petition seeking exhaustive directions for providing appropriate legal framework and facilities to persons with disabilities who are undergoing incarceration in jails, either as undertrials or convicts.

The top court also directed that prisoners with benchmark disabilities shall be entitled to enhanced visitation provisions in order to ensure sustained family support, emotional well-being and continuous monitoring of their special needs.

It referred to the exhaustive directions given by the apex court earlier in an order in which the court had taken note of the issue as to whether appropriate facilities were being made available to prisoners with disabilities during their incarceration in jails in Tamil Nadu.

The apex court had then passed a slew of directions, including that prison premises shall be equipped with wheelchair-friendly spaces, accessible toilets, ramps and sensory-safe environments to ensure universal accessibility

Observing that majority of issues agitated in the petition were already addressed by the top court in that judgement, the bench said the directions issued in that case shall be extended to all states and Union territories.

"Every state and Union Territories shall establish a robust, independent and accessible grievance redressal mechanism specifically designed for prisoners with disabilities," it said.

The bench noted that counsel appearing for the petitioner has sought directions for the provision of appropriate assistive devices, mobility aids and other support equipment to prisoners with disabilities.

"However, considering the crucial issue relating to prison security and the practical modalities of implementation, we, for the present, deem it appropriate to call upon all states and Union Territories to indicate in its compliance report the structured institutional mechanism proposed to ensure the regular availability, maintenance, and secure provision of assistive devices, mobility aids, and other disability-support equipment for prisoners with disabilities," the bench said.

The top court directed all the states and Union territories to place on record a comprehensive compliance report before it within four months indicating the measures undertaken for effectuating the directions issued by the court. It posted the matter for hearing on April 7.

UG NEET...

NEET, From Page 3

Prasanna also clarified that seats which were available at the beginning of the third round and those cancelled due to various reasons till December 5, and the remaining seats after the seat allocation in the above order will be considered for seat allocation in keeping with the rules.

KEA has extended the date for admission to PG medical courses till December 8 for students who could not take part in the process due to IndiGo flight cancellations. "The deadline for registering choices has been extended to December 8 until 11 am. Those who registered for Choice 1 & 2 must pay the fee by December 8 at 12.30 pm. Candidates who have selected Choice-1 must submit the original documents to the KEA office by December 8 at 2.30 pm. After submitting the original documents, they should download the admit card by December 8 and report to colleges," he added.

B'luru to get Central Drug Testing Lab, to cut wait time for sample analysis reports

Drug, From Page 3

While it will reduce the manpower burden on the department, it will also prevent any harassment of sellers by drug inspectors, the official added.

Increasing the jail term to life imprisonment for peddling fake drugs and making it a cognisable offence are among the other amendments proposed.

"Serious adulterations and peddling of fake drugs need to be addressed based on the severity and hence we are proposing life imprisonment for a few of them," Gupta added.

Very few states have made amendments to the Central Act. Karnataka will be one of them. The amendment is expected to be tabled in the upcoming legislature session.

Airfares capped to end 'opportunistic pricing'

Fares capped, From Page 3

"These fare limits shall be applicable for all forms of bookings, regardless of whether the purchase is made directly through the airline's official website or through various online travel agents' platforms," the order said.

Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said the ministry has invoked its regulatory powers to ensure fair and reasonable fares across all affected routes to "protect passengers from any form of opportunistic pricing".

He said the ministry will continue to closely monitor fare levels through real-time data and active coordination with airlines and online travel platforms and warned that any deviation from the prescribed norms will attract immediate corrective action in the larger public interest.

ALL EYES ON SKY

People look on as IAF's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team performs manoeuvres during an air show at Atal Sarovar, in Rajkot on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ಸಂ: ಕೆವಿಂಸಿ&ಆರ್ ಐ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/282/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06/12/2025
ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನುರಿತ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಿವೃತ್ತ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರು/ತತ್ಸಮಾನ ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ನಿವೃತ್ತ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರನ್ನು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಸಲಹೆಗಾರರನ್ನಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರುಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15/12/2025 ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನವನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಬಹುದು ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಗಳು/ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಗಳು/ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kmcrihubballi.karnataka.gov.in/english ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. www.isec.ac.in
NOTICE
1.The 12th Special General Body Meeting & 53rd Annual General Body Meeting of the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru will be held on **Tuesday, 30th December 2025 at 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. and 12.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m. respectively in the Seminar Hall-2 of ISEC**. **2.** The Honourable Governor of Karnataka and the President of the ISEC Society, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, has kindly consented to preside over the meeting. **3.** All the members of ISEC Society are cordially invited to participate in the Special General Body and Annual General Body Meeting and occupy their seat by 10.45 a.m. Sharp. **4.** All the members of ISEC Society are welcome to join for tea at 10.15 a.m. **5.** The members are requested to confirm their participation by email / phone / other modes for making necessary arrangements at the earliest.
Smt. Vidyashree Chandaragi, K.A.S
Registrar, registrar@isec.ac.in
Date: 07.12.2025 Landline: 080 23217011 / 23215519 / 23215468
ISEC-25623

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810
IFT No.20/2025-26 Dt.28.11.2025
ITEM WISE TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for 02 **works** under this division with KW-4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems, which has been approved under the head of account 4059-80-051-0-29-386 Departmental Buildings construction for the year 2025-26. The **minimum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.312.38 Lakhs and minimum EMD amount is Rs.4.69 Lakhs.** The **maximum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.604.91 Lakhs and maximum EMD amount is Rs.9.07 Lakhs** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the undersigned office **at 11.00 A.M on 15.12.2025.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 01-12-2025 to 31-12-2025, within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-I &II Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/1311/KSMCA/751/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry, Ground Floor, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036.
No: BECC/2025-26/IND0001 Date: 06-12-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry, BECC, Bengaluru invites Proposal in Two Cover System from eligible Suppliers who are registered in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the **Supply of Combined Vaccine (5 in 1) for Stray Dogs.**
Tender Reference No: **BECC/2025-26/IND0001**
1) The Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Date, Time and Venue of Pre Bid Meeting: **09-12-2025 at 12.30 PM at the Office of the Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry, Ground Floor, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036. 3)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **09-12-2025 upto 5.00 PM. 4)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **20-12-2025 upto 5.00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **22-12-2025 at 11.00 AM. 6)** EMD Amount: **As per Schedule of Requirement. 7)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry, Ground Floor, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036.** Phone: **8296184712,** E-Mail: **adahkrp01@gmail.com.** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/-
Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry, BECC.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Short Term Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.
Last date for submission of bid: 15.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Development of connecting road from Mysuru-Bengaluru National highway to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, KHB Colony, Bidadi hobli, Ramanagara, Bengaluru South District. Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/OW/work_indent 667 & IFT No.115/2025-26 Date: 06.12.2025. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.4,02,00,622/-.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/4281/AKAR/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 11/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.11.2025
ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–I, II ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) E-procurement ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.12.2025ರ 16.30 ರವರೆಗೆ.** (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.12.2025**ರಂದು 4.35 ನಂತರ. (3) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ)
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:290/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 012.
Website: https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/ugneet2025
e-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in
No. ED/KEA/ UGNEET /2025 Date: 06-12-2025
3rd round of seat allotment for admission to medical and dental courses Regarding the publication of revised results as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court
1. With regard to the provisional result of the 3rd round seat allotment list published on 24.10.2025, the Hon'ble High Court in Writ Petition NO. 31934 / 2025 and related Writ Petitions 32428, 32391, 32510, 32519, the Hon'ble three-Judges Bench in its judgment dated **05.12.2025**, has quashed the provisional seat-allotment list of the 3rd round published by KEA on **24.10.2025** and has given the following directions for allotment of seats based on the options already submitted by the candidates.
"[B] The KEA is issued with the following directions:
[ii] To firstly undertake the process for allotment of the additional seats [443 seats] for those candidates who are permitted to participate and this process shall be based on the options as already entered.
[iii] To secondly undertake the process for allotment of those additional seats which are not taken in the first stage as mentioned in direction [B][ii].
[iv] To next undertake the process for allotment of "the Consequential Seats" [377 seats] and the seats that remain after the process under direction [B][ii] and B[iii]."
For the information of the candidates the complete order has been published on the KEA Website **https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/ugneet2025.**
2. The revised provisional result of the 3rd round medical and dental seat allotment as per the above method is published on **06.12.2025** and objections, if any, candidates can send email to KEA **keauthority-ka@nic.in before 3:00 pm on 07.12.2025**.
Candidates can get more information from the KEA Website about the steps taken for seat allotment as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court and the detailed schedule for the 3rd round.
DIPR/CP/4280/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Director.

Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Executive Engineer, KNNL,No.6 Canal Division, Ballari
Tender Notification
Reference: This office tender notification No: 1426; Dated: 04.12.2025
The Executive Engineer, KNNL No.6 Canal Division, Ballari on behalf of Managing Director KNNL, Bangalore invites the tender for seven works namely WI.3086 , WI.3088, WI.3394, WI.3397 WI.3407 WI.3391 & WI.3398 with Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) of Rs.209.31 Rs.184.17 Lakhs, Rs.209.33 Lakhs, Rs.251.25 Lakhs, Rs.209.27 Lakhs, Rs.209.29 Lakhs & Rs.209.31 Lakhs respectively in the Jurisdiction of this Division under the head of account 4701 from the registered eligible contractors in the KPWD, GOK on Two Cover system basis through Karnataka public procurement portal.
The bidders can access and download blank tender document through e-procurement from 8.12.2025 from 11.00 AM onwards
The last date for the submission of tenders is 8.01.2026 up to 4.30 pm, Technical bid opening date is 09.01.2026 at 5.00 pm and Financial bid opening date is 20.01.2026 at 5.00 pm or after approval of Technical Bid.
The Tender documents can be viewed / downloaded from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any changes either in tender details or any other conditions, if recalled, tenderers can view in KPPP Portal only. Separate notification in this regards will not be published.
For any additional information, the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours or submit the request through office email: eeno6cdbly@yahoo.in for information.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL,No.6 Canal Division, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/754/KSMCA/2025-26

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:39:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:05–12–2025
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ.–07 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)– 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)–01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 (3ನೇ ಕರೆ)–01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 11 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
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ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Phone No.080-22265383, website : www.kiadb.in.
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-23/346/2025-26 Date:06.12.2025
SHORT TERM NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Portal Only)
Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors Class-III & above (Civil) issued from KPWD, who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:
Name of Works : (1) Construction of Storm Water Drain behind Road No.3 in Narasapura Industrial Area, Gadag District. **(2)** Maintenance of 12M wide roads from park plot no-121 to park plot no-102 KIADB Aliyabad Block-2 Industrial Area, Vijayapura District. **(3)** Maintenance of 15M Wide Road from Mahalbagyath main road to Aliyabad Block-1 Industrial Area, Vijayapura District. **(4)** Improvements of Roads & Construction of RCC Drains in Sattur & Lakkamanahalli Industrial Area, Dharwad District. **(5)** Improvements to Drains at Road No.1 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 & 14 in Tarihal Industrial Area, Dharwad District. **(6)** Maintenance of 12M & 15M wide roads from Road No.1 to Road No-5 at KIADB Aliyabad Block-2 Industrial Area, Vijayapura District. **(7)** Improvements of 30M Wide road to Park Plot No-217/2 to Plot No-331 (KPTCL Sub Station) at Kanagala Industrial Area, Hukeri Taluk, Belagavi District. **(8)** Improvements to Internal Road No.1, 2, 2A, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6A, 7 & 8 in Narasapura Industrial Area, in Gadag District.
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Scheduled of dates are as follows: Last date for submission of bids is: **20.12.2025 upto 04:00 pm**
DIPR/CP/DISHA/4273/2025-26
Sd/- Chief Engineer-2

A UNITED STABLE CM not only ended infighting but also delivered governance

As Revanth holds fort, Cong's 'Telangana Model' emerges

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Two years since becoming Telangana's first Congress chief minister, Anumula Revanth Reddy has confounded critics and sceptics alike by emerging as a figure with an iron grip on both the party and the state administration.

For the Congress high command, Telangana's relative political calm is a breath of fresh air — especially amid messy power struggles in neighbouring Karnataka, another state where the Congress is in power.

Few would have predicted this in December 2023, when suspense engulfed the Telangana Congress after its Assembly election victory. Political observers forecast chaos amid fears that the party's notorious internal rivalries and seasoned leaders' ambitions would affect both its unity and governance. Yet, the central leadership took a decisive gamble by choosing Revanth — a relative outsider with a bold streak — over veteran warhorses.

Two years on, he is already being hailed as "doer". "It's evident that Revanth has consolidated his position not just inside the Congress but also in the government machinery," senior journalist and political analyst A Saye Sekhar told *DH*. "He has balanced governance and welfare delivery despite inheriting a massive fiscal deficit. Brand Hyderabad has gone up another notch in the last two years, emerging as a new destination for global capability centres (GCCs) in the entire country."

Revanth now draws a comparison with Congress stalwart Y S Rajasekhar Reddy — another "man of the masses" who defined his own era with a mix of popular welfare schemes and infrastructure initiatives.

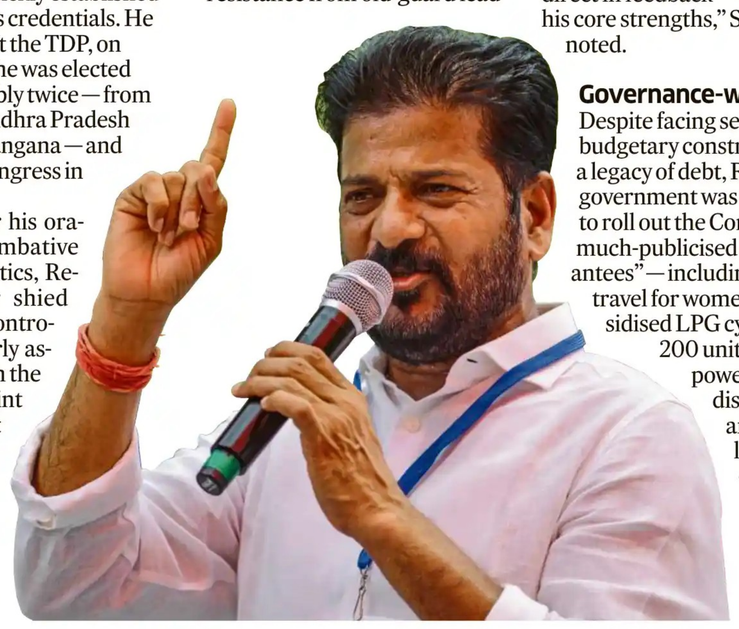
Rise and rule

Revanth's ascent is a testament to political tenacity. Beginning as an independent candidate almost two decades ago and winning a Zilla Parishad seat from the undivided Mahbubnagar district, he quickly established his grassroots credentials. He eventually left the TDP, on whose ticket he was elected to the Assembly twice — from undivided Andhra Pradesh and then Telangana — and joined the Congress in 2017.

Known for his oratory and combative brand of politics, Revanth never shied away from controversy. His early association with the RSS and a stint as a journalist for its Telugu weekly Jagrithi was fodder for political rivals, but never a source of embarrassment for him. He also bounced back defiantly from his arrest in the 2015 "cash-for-vote" scandal, which briefly landed him in jail, by memorably challenging Telangana's then-chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Over the years, he became the Congress' face against the powerful BRS government. Inheriting a divided party wracked by decades of electoral disappointment in Telangana, Revanth brought warring factions together and energised the cadre through his leadership.

His biggest test, however, may have been within his own party. His rapid rise provoked resistance from old-guard leaders who were wary of his style and ambition. He managed to not only outmanoeuvre them but also fuse rival factions into a more unified front.



His accessibility became his hallmark: "Even now, anyone can meet him," close aide and Khairatabad DCC president Dr C Rohin Reddy told *DH*. "He stays grounded, makes time for visitors every day, and never lets power go to his head. None of us expect anything from him except the privilege of working for his vision."

Such personal touch and transparency have reinforced his image as a man of the masses. "Communicating the state's fiscal realities bluntly, being direct in feedback — these are his core strengths," Sekhar noted.

Governance-wise

Despite facing severe budgetary constraints and a legacy of debt, Revanth's government was quick to roll out the Congress's much-publicised "Six Guarantees" — including free bus travel for women, subsidised LPG cylinders, 200 units of free power, fine rice distribution, and a farm loan waiver — with a few exceptions. Political analysts credit the administration with striking a delicate fiscal balancing act, sustaining public welfare while beginning to chip away at infrastructural priorities.

Urban voters, once wary of the Congress, have also warmed up to Revanth's style, as evidenced by consecutive by-election wins in Secunderabad Cantonment and Jubilee Hills. His leadership is drawing comparisons to both NTR — who succeeded as a political novice — and YSR, who harmonised growth and welfare during his tenure as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh from 2004 to 2009.

Revanth's ambitions extend beyond immediate governance. Determined to leave a lasting imprint on Telangana's development trajectory, he is spearheading signature urban projects such as Hyderabad 4.0, a futuristic vision for the city; the Musi Riverfront development; and Bharat Future City at Mucherla — poised to become Hyderabad's next economic engine. These initiatives signal his aspiration to emulate the iconic legacies of past chief ministers — N Chandrababu Naidu's Cyberabad and IT revolution, YSR's Outer Ring Road and airport development, and the BRS' infrastructure transformation under K T Rama Rao.

Revanth Reddy's focus now is on shaping a new "Telangana Model" — balancing welfare, political stability, development, and grassroots connect.

AP govt refuses to disclose Google MoU under RTI

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

'OPEN' SECRET

- RTI application seeking access to MoU was rejected by the AP govt
- It said the document contained information treated as confidential by a third party
- RTI activist said the documents should have been placed in the public domain voluntarily

The Andhra Pradesh government has refused to share the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) it signed with Google for setting up a data centre in Visakhapatnam, citing third-party confidentiality provisions under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Responding to an RTI application seeking a copy of the MoU, the IT, Electronics & Communications (E&C) Department said the document contained information treated as confidential by a third party.

Its disclosure, the department said, is restricted under Sections 11 and 8(1)(d) of the RTI Act, 2005, which relate to third-party commercial confidence and trade secrets.

The department, however, provided a copy of Government Order Ms No 40 (IT, E&C Promotions Department), dated October 11, 2025, relating to the project's incentives and land allotment.

The RTI application was filed by Chakradhar Budha, an activist from Anakapalle and co-convenor of the United Forum for RTI Campaign's Andhra Pradesh chapter.

"This lack of disclosure is troubling. A project of this scale involves significant commitment of public resources, including power, water, land and subsidies and incentives of various kinds. It is widely acknowledged that such large data centres will exert significant pressure on the infrastructure," said Human Rights Forum coordination committee member, VS Krishna.

"Without access to the MoU, how are civil societies, citizens and researchers to assess whether adequate environmental safeguards, social impact assessments, data localisation safeguards, privacy protections, requisite oversight mechanisms and data privacy frameworks have been built into the agreement?" he said.

Navy personnel during a parade commemorating the Navy Day celebrations, at Gateway of India in Mumbai, on Saturday. PTI

'Hindu rate of growth' term maligned entire civilisation: Modi

Says in 10 years, we must rid the country of slave mentality

NEW DELHI, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a media Summit in New Delhi. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged people to completely rid the country of the slave mentality in the next 10 years, and hit out at "so-called intellectuals" for trying to malign an entire civilisation by calling years of sluggish economic growth the Hindu rate of growth.

At a media summit here, Modi said India was brimming with confidence at a time when the world was full of uncertainties, and was scripting the story of growth in the era of global slowdown.

He asserted that no country can move forward without self-confidence, and every sector today was shedding the colonial mindset and aiming for new achievements with pride.

'Colonial mentality'

"This colonial mentality has become a major barrier in achieving the goals of a developed Bharat. That is why today's Bharat is working to free itself from this mindset," Modi said.

He said such was the impact of this colonial mentality that even today, when many around the world describe India as a global growth engine, very few speak proudly about this achievement.

"Has anyone ever referred to it as the Hindu rate of growth?" he asked and reminded the audience that the term was used at a time when India struggled even to reach a growth rate of two to 3%.

Modi said the country's economic performance was linked to the faith of its people, and an entire society was reduced to a synonym for poverty.

"The message being pushed was that India's slow growth was somehow the consequence of Hindu civilisation itself. And those who now communalise every issue had no objection to this term then. This term became part of books and research papers," the prime minister said.

India model of high growth: PM

Asserting that India is a model of high growth and low inflation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country's 8.2% growth in the second quarter of this fiscal showed that it is becoming the growth driver of the global economy, reports PTI.

He said India's confidence had been shaken by the "mentality of colonialism", but now we are moving on. He also said that when the world is full of uncertainties, India is in a different league.

The changes happening in India are not just about possibilities but are a saga of changing thinking and direction, he said. The world is full of uncertainties, but India is being seen in a different league altogether, he said.

6 yrs after SC verdict, Ayodhya mosque yet to come up

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

STORY SO FAR

- Sunni Waqf Board allotted 5 acres of land at Dhannipur village, about 25 km from Ayodhya town
- Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation Trust formed for mosque's construction
- Work, however, could not start due to one reason or another, including pending NOC from Ayodhya Development Authority

Suspended TMC legislator Humayun Kabir may have laid the foundation stone of a Babri Masjid in West Bengal on Saturday, but the proposed Dhannipur Mosque in Ayodhya is yet to see the light of day, even six years after the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid Title case.

According to the apex court judgment, the Sunni Waqf Board was allotted five acres of land at the Dhannipur village, about 25 km from Ayodhya town, for the construction of a mosque.

An Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation Trust was formed for the mosque's construction, and it announced that the mosque complex would also have a museum and a community kitchen.

Why the delay?

The construction work, however, could not start owing to one reason or the other.

One was the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) rejecting the map of the proposed mosque.

According to sources, the Fire Department refused to give a no-objection certificate for the construction of the mosque and raised several objections.

Sources also said a revised map had been prepared and was likely to be submitted to the ADA later this month. The construction may start once the map gets the NOC from the ADA.

Muslims in Ayodhya, however, did not appear too enthusiastic about the Dhannipur mosque. Iqbal Ansari, who was among the main Muslim plaintiffs in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid Title suits, said the Muslims were not unduly worried over the delay in the mosque's construction.

"There is no need to construct a mosque at Dhannipur. Ayodhya has places of worship for all religions," he said on Saturday, on the 33rd anniversary of the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

An office-bearer of the Ayodhya Wakf Committee also said that a majority of Muslims from Ayodhya was unlikely to visit the Dhannipur mosque, which is quite far from Ayodhya, to offer prayers.

He, however, said the mosque's construction would begin after the ADA clearance.

Meanwhile, no untoward incident was reported from anywhere in Ayodhya and elsewhere in the state on the demolition anniversary.

BJP MP moves bill to remove 'secular', 'socialist' from Preamble

NEW DELHI, PTI: The terms 'secular' and 'socialist' are not required in the Preamble of the Constitution, and were added in an "undemocratic" manner during the Emergency, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Bhim Singh, who has introduced a Private Member's Bill in the Upper House to remove these words, said.

Singh, who introduced The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (amendment of the Preamble) in the Rajya Sabha on Friday, said the words create "confusion" and were not a part of the original Constitution.

"I have introduced a Private Member's Bill to amend the Preamble of the Constitution, to remove the words 'socialist' and 'secular'...," Singh said.

Asked what his expectation was from the move since only a few Private Member's Bills have been passed over the decades, he replied, "We understand that the Bill may not necessarily be passed, but the issue would come to the attention of the government and the people."

Hoax bomb threat to Indian Women's Press Corps

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A bomb threat to the offices of the Indian Women Press Corps and the Delhi Union of Journalists triggered extensive search operations on Saturday before being declared a hoax, an official said.

The IWPC, in a statement, said they received an email at 4.57 am stating that RDX-IED had been planted at the premises of IWPC and DUJ. The DUJ, too, received the same mail.

"We immediately informed the Delhi Police. The Delhi Bomb Squad and Delhi Dog Squad Unit promptly rushed to the premises and conducted a thorough search. After a search, they termed it a hoax threat," the IWPC said.

The email allegedly carried some phrases in Tamil and mentioned a case of sexual assault of a minor in Tamil Nadu. The emails created panic among journalists.

I.N.D.I.A bloc on life support, risks being wheeled into ICU: Omar

NEW DELHI, PTI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the I.N.D.I.A bloc is currently "on life support" and risks being wheeled into the "ICU" due to infighting and a failure to match the BJP's round-the-clock election machine.

Speaking at a media summit here, the National Conference leader detailed the "organisational and strategic failures" of the Opposition bloc, contrasting its approach with the BJP's "unparalleled" work ethic.

Talking about the I.N.D.I.A bloc's current health, particularly in the aftermath of the recent Bihar elections, Abdullah said, "We're sort of on life support, but every once in a while, somebody brings out his paddles and gives us a bit of a shock, and we get up again. But then, unfortunately, results like Bihar happen, and we slump down again, and then somebody has to wheel us into the ICU."

Abdullah blamed the I.N.D.I.A bloc for the return of Nitish Kumar to the BJP-led NDA. He compared the I.N.D.I.A bloc's electioneering to that of the BJP and said the Opposition alliance is structurally unable to compete with the ruling party's disciplined approach.

NAMESAKE

BJP fields 'Soniya Gandhi' in Kerala local polls

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A BJP candidate in the Kerala local body elections is attracting attention for her name, Soniya Gandhi. The 33-year-old is contesting from the Nallathanni ward in Munnar panchayat, Idukki district.

"My father was a staunch Congress worker. His admiration for the Nehru family and Sonia Gandhi led him to name me Soniya Gandhi. My husband is a BJP worker, and that's how I too became a BJP supporter," she told *DH*.

Soniya recalled that during her school days, friends and teachers often made fun of her name, and at one point, she even considered changing it. Now, however, she says she is happy with it, as it has become an advantage in her campaign.

Soniya Gandhi

"Since people used to ridicule me, I often avoided revealing my full name. I would introduce myself simply as Soniya or Sony. Many in my locality have only now discovered my full name," she said.

Asked whether she wishes to meet Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, she said, "I don't have much desire to meet her. But now I wish I could meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

She explained why she shifted allegiance to the BJP despite her family's long-standing Congress loyalty. "All my relatives are still Congress supporters. But when our family faced a personal crisis a couple of years ago, neither the Congress nor the CPM — who have long ruled our panchayat — offered any support. That experience prompted us to join the BJP," she says.

Soniya, who is pitted against Manjula Ramesh of the Congress and Valarmathi of the CPM, is confident of scripting success in her maiden electoral battle.

HC quashes Gujarat cops diktat on public gatherings

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

WHAT HC SAID

- Such notifications are required only to 'overcome emergent situations' such as riots
- These powers to be exercised only when other measures have failed

The Gujarat High Court has quashed the Ahmedabad police commissioner's notifications for repeated imposition of section 144 of the CrPC and section 37 of Gujarat Police Act (ACT), which prohibits assembly of four or more persons without permission.

Justice M R Mengdey passed a detailed order on December 4 and termed the notifications issued by the police as invalid.

"...the respondent authorities are hereby directed that, in future, while exercising such powers available under BNSS or Section 37 of the G P Act, due care shall be taken for adhering to the procedural aspects and the inherent safeguards required for exercising such powers and the notifications/orders issued under these provisions shall be given wide publicity on social media to make the public aware of it," Justice Mengdey said.

The order was passed six years after a petition was filed by a group of citizens after they were denied permission to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The petition said since 2016, 64 notifications that barred assembly of more than four persons and another set of 61 notifications were related to prohibition of 'singing songs, playing music, displaying pictures, symbols and placards in public'.

The court order said such notifications were required only to 'overcome emergent situations' such as riots or unrest, leading to disturbance of public tranquility.

Bill to regulate deepfakes tabled in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, PTI: A private member's Bill seeking a clear legal framework for the regulation of deepfakes has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The Regulation of Deepfake Bill, introduced by Shiv Sena leader Shrikant Shinde in the House on Friday, aims to protect citizens by mandating prior consent from individuals depicted in deepfake content.

"Misuse of deepfakes for harassment, deception and misinformation has escalated, creating an urgent need for regulatory safeguards," Shinde said.

The Bill also lists penalties for offenders creating or disseminating deepfake content with malicious intent.

It also seeks to establish the Deepfake Task Force, a dedicated body to combat national security implications and evaluate the influence of deepfakes on privacy, civic participation, and potential election interference.

Indian, US investigators to meet next week on Air India crash

REUTERS: India will send investigators to the United States next week to go over data gathered on the deadly Air India flight crash in June with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Bloomberg News reported on Saturday.

Indian investigators plan to share findings, including any information gleaned from the plane's cockpit voice and flight data recorders, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter.

Reuters could not immediately verify the report.

The meeting will occur at the NTSB's headquarters in Washington DC, the report said, adding that representatives of other parties — including Boeing — will be present.

Boeing deferred to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) when Reuters reached out for comment.

NTSB, India's Civil Aviation Ministry, and the AAIB did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

A Boeing 787 Dreamliner bound for London from Ahmedabad began to lose thrust and altitude shortly after takeoff on June 12.

All but one of the 242 people on board were killed, and 19 others on the ground also perished.

CCTV footage of couples in theatres surfaces on darknet

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Video footage of couples captured by surveillance cameras in some cinema theatres in Kerala has surfaced on the darknet as soft porn.

So far, clips from three theatres in Thiruvananthapuram have been traced to social media groups and porn websites.

All three theatres are run by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).

The cyber operations wing of the Kerala Police has launched an investigation into the matter.

Illegally accessed

Sources said the video footage was suspected to have been illegally accessed from the cloud storage of theatre surveillance camera networks through hacking.

"Earlier, the security vulnerabilities of several theatre CCTV networks had come to our notice, and we had alerted them. We will track the racket involved," a police officer from the cyber operations wing told *DH*.

Earlier this year, police cracked a racket that had hacked into the CCTV network of a hospital in Gujarat and obtained video footage of women patients.

The racket's modus operandi is to lure people by circulating clips labelled as soft porn and then offering full videos on a payment basis through closed social media groups.

Meanwhile, KSFDC authorities said that if any employees were found to be involved in illegally extracting video footage, stringent action would follow.

India's next-gen nuclear reactors to come up at Tarapur by 2033

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre developing reactors under Nuclear Energy Mission

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's first two next-generation nuclear reactors — a 200-MW Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR) and a 55-MW Small Modular Reactor (SMR) — will come up at Tarapur near Mumbai, where the country's first nuclear power plant was set up more than five decades ago.

Sources said Mumbai's Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) was developing two types of SMRs under the Nuclear Energy Mission, and the lead unit of both would be located at Tarapur.

A third 5-MW high-temperature gas-cooled reactor is also being designed. Meant for hydrogen generation, this reactor is proposed to be constructed at BARC's Visakhapatnam campus.

BSMR-200 and SMR-55 can be deployed as captive plants for energy-intensive industries like aluminium, steel, and metal, as well as for repurposing retiring fossil fuel-based power plants and providing energy for remote locations.

Hydrogen produced from high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, on the other hand, can be utilised in the transport sector and processing industries, said sources.

The path ahead

According to a roadmap prepared by the Department of Atomic Energy, these demonstration reactors are to be set up within 60-72 months of getting permission. The plan is to have five indigenous SMRs by 2033.

An allocation of Rs 5,960 crore has been proposed to design and develop the BSMR-200, whereas Rs 7,000 crore is planned to be earmarked for two SMR-55 units.

The high-temperature gas-cooled reactor will receive a corpus of Rs 320 crore.

In addition, an allocation of Rs 800 crore has been proposed for common design, development, and engineering works.

The Union government has already announced plans to partner with private-sector players for the deployment of the BSMR-220.

In fact, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited has issued a Request for Proposal within the existing legal framework, inviting Indian industries to participate in setting up the BSMR for captive power generation.

An amendment to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, may be introduced in the ongoing Winter session of Parliament to open up the closely-guarded sector to private participation.

Importance of move

Nuclear energy plays a key role in the Central government's overall plan to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.

In the 2025-26 Union Budget, the government allocated Rs 20,000 crore for the design, development, and deployment of SMRs, aiming to operationalise such indigenously-developed reactors by 2033.

Aviation body issues notice to Indigo CEO over flight chaos

Seeks reply within 24 hours; cites lapses in planning

NEW DELHI, AGENCIES

Aviation watchdog DGCA on Saturday issued show cause notices to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and Accountable Manager Isidro Porqueras seeking explanations within 24 hours on the massive flight disruptions, according to sources.

For five days in a row, IndiGo has witnessed significant operational disruptions with hundreds of flight cancellations and delays, causing hardships to thousands of passengers.

In the notices sent to Elbers and Porqueras, the regulator said the large-scale operational failures indicate significant lapses in planning, oversight and resource management.

"... as the CEO, you are responsible for ensuring effective management of the airline but you have failed in your duty to ensure timely arrangements for conduct of reliable operations and the availability of requisite facilities to the passengers," the regulator said in the notice sent to Elbers.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked Elbers and Porqueras to reply within 24 hours.

The notices mentioned that the primary cause of the flight disruptions is non-provisioning of adequate arrangements to cater to the revised requirements for smooth implementation of the approved FDTL (Flight Duty Time Limitations) scheme for the airline.

On Saturday, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu along with senior civil aviation ministry officials held a "serious meeting" with Elbers to review the situation and address the issues, a government official said.

The official also said authorities will take appropriate action on the IndiGo flight disruptions depending on the inquiry committee findings.

Pilots criticise exemption

The new pilot rest and duty rules capped the number of night landings to two from six and restricted the maximum number of hours a pilot can fly in the night to 10 hours.

For now, IndiGo has been exempted from both measures until February 10.

The new rules also said if a pilot takes personal leave, that cannot be counted in calculating his weekly rest period of 48 hours. That restriction too has been put on hold for all airlines, given the IndiGo crisis.

That has upset pilot labour groups, who told the government that safety must not be compromised to make up for IndiGo's poor planning, the head of the Federation of Indian Pilots, CS Randhawa, said.

Help us to prevent credit card fraud! Kindly show the credit card (or photocopy* of the card) used for booking.
ALL INDIGO FLIGHTS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY (Dated: 06-DEC-2025) STANDS CANCELLED. AUTO REFUND WILL BE INITIATED AUTOMATICALLY

A notice at the IndiGo airlines ticketing desk states that all their flight remain suspensed for the day, at the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, in Varanasi, on Saturday. AFP

Around 800 flights cancelled on Saturday

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Around 800 IndiGo flights were cancelled on Saturday, much lower than the previous day's 1,500. The airline said that it has already re-established 95% of network connectivity.

The airline usually operates around 2,300 flights a day.

An airline spokesperson said they were on their way to operate over 1,500 flights by the end of the day.

"With regards to destinations, over 95% of network connectivity has already been re-established as we are able to operate to 135 out of the existing 138 destinations in operations," a spokesperson said.

The airline had cancelled a significant number of flights and operated a little over 700 flights yesterday, connecting 113 destinations.

"The main objective was to reboot the network, systems, and rosters so that we could start afresh today with a higher number of flights, improved stability, and there are some early signs of improvement... While we understand that we have a long way to go, we are committed to building back the trust of our customers," the spokesperson said.

89 special trains

To help people facing travel disruptions, the Indian Railways on Saturday announced 89 special trains across all zones.

These special trains will make over 100 trips, connecting cities such as New Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Patna, and Howrah, among others in the next three days.

"The number of special trains and their trips might increase further depending on the traffic scenario. All zones have been asked to make use of all available resources, including rolling stock as well as manpower, to safely operate these trains for the convenience of lakhs of passengers stranded at different parts of the country due to flight cancellations," said Dilip Kumar, executive director, Information & Publicity, Railway Board.

Dilip Kumar said that efforts are being made to make people aware about the special trains, and some divisions have even disseminated information at nearby airports to help the passengers.

Over 85% fliers favour class-action suit: Survey

MUMBAI, PTI: As many as 87% of respondents of a survey conducted on IndiGo passengers said they wanted the airline's service deficiency to be put under the Class Action provision of the Consumer Protection (CP) Act, 2019, a statement said on Saturday.

A class-action provision is a legal mechanism that allows a group of people with a common grievance to collectively sue a company for acts like mismanagement or fraud.

The survey was conducted by LocalCircles in the wake of domestic carrier IndiGo cancelling hundreds of flights in the last four days, leaving thousands of passengers stranded at various airports in the country, as airfares hit the skies.

There have been class-action (or proposed class-action) lawsuits — mostly outside India — against airlines over refund, cancellation, compensation, and related issues, it said.

Refund concerns

Beyond cancellations and delays, many IndiGo passengers raised serious concerns about refund integrity (deductions and delays), failed "zero-cancellation/insurance" promises, the shifting of itineraries without consent, and a lack of adequate compensation or support even when they missed crucial flights, LocalCircles said.

The survey asked fliers: "Should the CCPA take up the service deficiency of IndiGo under the Class Action provision of the Consumer Protection Act 2019?"

Stranded passengers get into altercation with the staff at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai. PTI

Out of the 32,547 respondents from 303 districts across India, 87% stated "yes, absolutely"; 3% stated "no, not needed", and 10% did not give a clear answer, it said.

"To sum up, 87% of airline passengers surveyed want CCPA to take up IndiGo's service deficiency under the Class Action provision of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019," it said.

Many passengers who accepted cancellations or cancelled their own bookings said the refunds were well below the fare paid, despite the "100% refund" assurance, as per the survey, which sought air passengers' views on what they see as pertinent action by the Union government.

CONGRESS

"This crisis is not a natural breakdown; it is the predictable fallout of the BJP government that has been hell-bent on crushing competition, rewarding favourites, and reshaping an entire national industry to suit a tiny circle of corporate allies.

India, US trade team to start talks from Dec 10

NEW DELHI, PTI: India and the United States will commence three-day talks on the first phase of their proposed bilateral trade agreement here from December 10, sources said.

The visit is crucial as India and the US are working to finalise the first tranche of the pact.

"The three-day talks will start on December 10. It will conclude on December 12, and it is not a formal round of talks," said one of the sources.

The US team will be led by Deputy United States Trade Representative Rick Switzer.

This visit of the US officials marks their second trip since the imposition of a 25% tariff and an additional 25% penalty on Indian goods entering the American market due to the purchase of Russian crude oil.

TRADE STAKES

- Three-day discussions begin Dec 10 on the first phase of a bilateral pact
- Talks follow US imposing 25% tariff + 25% penalty on Indian goods
- Framework deal on tariffs and a comprehensive trade pact running in parallel
- First tranche targeted for 2025; aim to boost bilateral trade to $500 bn by 2030

On September 16, the US officials last visited India.

On September 22, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also led an official delegation to the US for trade talks. Goyal had also visited Washington in May.

While the USA's chief negotiator for the pact is Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch, the Indian side is led by Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce Darpan Jain.

The talks are also important as Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal has recently stated that India is hopeful of reaching a framework trade deal with the US this year itself, which should address the tariff issue to the benefit of Indian exporters.

Agrawal has added that India is engaged in protracted negotiations with the US on a framework trade deal that.

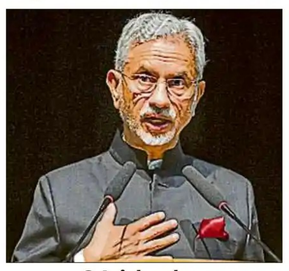
India and the US are having two parallel negotiations -- one on a framework trade deal to address tariffs and another on a comprehensive trade deal.

In February, leaders of the two countries directed officials to negotiate an agreement.

It was planned to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall of 2025. So far, six rounds of negotiations have been held. The agreement aims to more than double bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030, from the current$191 billion.

India-Russia ties among 'steadiest' globally: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI, PTI: The India-Russia partnership has been among the "steadiest big relationships" in the last 70-80 years, and President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi was about "reimagining" the ties with a focus on economic engagement, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday.



S Jaishankar

In an interactive session, he also disagreed with views that Putin's visit could complicate India's negotiations with the US on a bilateral trade agreement.

"No, I disagree with you. I think everybody knows that India has relations with all the major countries in the world," Jaishankar said at a media event.

"I think for any country to expect to have a veto or a say in how we develop our relations with others is not a reasonable proposition."

Jaishankar was asked if Putin's two-day visit to New Delhi, which focused largely on significantly enhancing the economic dimension of India-Russia ties, would have a bearing on the negotiations with the US for the proposed trade deal. "Because remember, the others can expect the same. I think we've always made it very clear that we have multiple relationships. We have a freedom of choice," he said.

"We talk about what is called strategic autonomy, and that continues, and I cannot imagine why anybody would have reason to expect the contrary," he added.

He acknowledged that the focus of the Trump administration has been on trade and noted that India's approach in navigating it is totally driven by national interests.

"But we are prepared to meet it on reasonable terms. I mean, for those of you who think that diplomacy is about pleasing somebody else, I'm sorry, that's not my view of diplomacy. I mean, to me, it is about defending our national interests," he said. The two sides are currently holding negotiations for the proposed trade deal.

On President Putin's two-day trip, Jaishankar said for a "big" and "rising" country like India, it is important to maintain good cooperation with as many important players as possible in the world in line with freedom of choice.

"I think if you look at India-Russia, the world has seen a lot of ups and downs in the last 70-80 years. I've said this before, and I'll say it again, India, Russia have actually been among the steadiest big relationships, big power or big country relationships in the world," he said.

To a question on Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, Jaishankar said much of India's problem emanates from the military of that country and even referred to its support for terror groups. Like there are good terrorists and bad terrorists, there are good military leaders and apparently not-so-good ones, he said, seen as a reference to Munir.

BJP roasts Congress over Putin dinner fiasco

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Responding to Congress' allegations that the Leaders of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, were not invited for the banquet with Russian President Vladimir Putin at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday, the BJP said Rahul Gandhi skipped earlier invites.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said Gandhi skipped invites for Republic Day as well as Independence Day earlier this year.

"Whenever a foreign dignitary visits, they can indicate if they wish to meet any individual. You can see in the pictures that Rahul Gandhi has met the ousted Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, and the Prime Minister of New Zealand. So if these meetings happened, then why this drama?" Bhatia added.

Bhatia further said that Gandhi is speaking about his fundamental rights, but not about his fundamental duty.

"He also chose not to go to Radhakrishnan's swearing-in. You are not paying attention to India's growing credibility, but are concerned that he did not get the invitation from Rashtrapati Bhavan," he added.

The Rashtrapati Bhawan did not extend an invite to both the LoPs, Mallikarjun Kharge (Rajya Sabha) and Gandhi (Lok Sabha), but instead extended an invite to Shashi Tharoor.

Ghaziabad, Noida & Delhi among India's most polluted cities

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ghaziabad was the most polluted city in India in November, with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 224 microgram per cubic metre and air quality remaining above the national standards on all 30 days, according to a new analysis.

Noida, Bahadurgarh, Delhi, Hapur, Greater Noida, Baghpat, Sonipat, Meerut and Rohtak joined Ghaziabad among the 10 most polluted cities, the report by think tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air said.

Uttar Pradesh accounted for six of these cities, followed by Haryana with three and Delhi.

Except Delhi, all other cities in the top 10 logged higher PM2.5 levels than the previous year.

TOXIC AIR

- Ghaziabad most polluted in November with PM2.5 at 224 microgram per cubic metre; nine other NCR cities—including Noida, Delhi and Sonipat—also in the top 10
- Pollution worsened in 20 of 29 NCR cities despite lower stubble-burning impact; Delhi's PM2.5 doubled from Oct
- Widespread breach of standards: Rajasthan, Haryana and UP saw most cities above limits, while Shillong was the cleanest at 7 microgram per cubic metre

Delhi ranked the fourth most polluted city with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 215 microgram per cubic metre in November, almost double its October average of 107. The city saw 23 very poor days, six severe days and one poor day.

The influence of stubble burning was lower this year, contributing an average of 7% to Delhi's pollution in November, compared to 20% last year. The peak contribution reached 22%, well below 38% recorded last year, CREA said.

Except Bahadurgarh, none of the top 10 cities saw even one day within the safe daily limit under the national standards.

"Despite a significant reduction in stubble-burning influence, 20 out of 29 NCR cities recorded higher pollution levels than the previous year and many still did not register a single day within NAAQS limits.

"This clearly indicates that the dominant drivers are year-round sources such as transport, industry, power plants and other combustion sources. Without sector-specific emission cuts, cities will continue to breach standards," said Manoj Kumar, Analyst at CREA.

At the state level, Rajasthan had the highest number of polluted cities, with 23 of 34 exceeding the national limit in November. Haryana had 22 of 25 such cities, and Uttar Pradesh had 14 of 20 above the standard. High levels were also reported in 9 of 12 cities in Madhya Pradesh, 9 of 14 in Odisha and 7 of 8 in Punjab.

Shillong in Meghalaya was the cleanest city, with a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 7 microgram per cubic metre.

The top 10 cleanest cities included six from Karnataka and one each from Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

TIPSY DIPLOMACY The US President does not rely on traditional foreign-policy experts

Trump's unconventional Ukraine peace plan sparks confusion

REUTERS

The confusion still swirling in Washington over President Donald Trump's latest peace plan for Ukraine has made at least one thing clear: the US president's unconventional, all-in approach to diplomacy carries significant risks — both domestic and geopolitical — as well as potential rewards.

The Russia-friendly peace plan that emerged two weeks ago bore many of the hallmarks of Trumpian diplomacy visible in crises from Gaza and Iran to Venezuela. It arrived unexpectedly, demanded painful concessions from the parties involved, set a short deadline and depended on freelance diplomacy by officials willing to overlook the concerns of traditional policy experts and senior figures in Trump's own Republican Party.

Above all, Trump put himself at the centre, opining on social media and throwing his support behind the plan. That approach has produced some successes, most notably a ceasefire in Gaza that eluded Trump's predecessor Joe Biden. But so far, the unexpected plan to end the war in Ukraine — and revelations that Russian officials played a role in shaping it — has stirred harsh criticism from Republican lawmakers, exasperation from European allies and confusion inside the administration.

And it carries political danger for Trump, said Republican strategist Alex Conant. The president's political base has strongly backed him so far, but with worries rising about the US economy, voters could see him as deeply involved in overseas crises at the expense of concerns at home.

"He's taking risks in the hopes of historic rewards. That's classic Trump — Trump's always been a risk-taker," said Conant, a former senior campaign adviser to Marco Rubio, who is now Trump's top diplomat. But, Conant added: "The more involved he is, the more he owns it."

In response to a request for comment from the White House, a senior US official said Trump was able to deliver for Americans on economic issues while also working to end wars.

"It was a campaign promise to end these wars. He's delivered on the Israel-Gaza war, which is something that is a tremendous accomplishment. A lot of people thought it couldn't be done. The president did it," the official said.

A meeting in Moscow earlier this week involving Russian President Vladimir Putin, US envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner produced no breakthroughs. Witkoff met Ukraine's senior negotiator on Thursday and they planned to meet again on Friday.

The latest Russia–Ukraine proposal was developed far from Washington and without the experts who have traditionally shaped US foreign policy.

Witkoff and Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev largely forged the plan during an October meeting in Miami that included Jared Kushner. Axios' 18 November report on the 28-point plan was the first that the public — and many inside the Trump administration — learned of it. Witkoff, a New York real estate magnate and longtime friend of Trump, has taken a prominent role in negotiating several major conflicts despite having little diplomatic expertise.

The senior US official said the administration's use of outsiders like Witkoff had proven successful with the Gaza deal, adding that Washington's foreign policy establishment had a record of failure. The Gaza deal has brought relative calm to the Palestinian enclave but has not resolved key issues, such as the disarming of the militant group Hamas. The Ukraine peace plan, for its part, met pushback from European leaders, who were alarmed by its initial endorsement of Russian demands that Ukraine surrender more territory, limit the size of its army, renounce joining NATO and be barred from hosting Western troops. Many in Europe see the danger as existential. They fear that ending the war on Moscow's terms and cancelling sanctions would give Russia billions of dollars to rebuild its military strength. Some US foreign policy experts argue that the traditional negotiating process stifles decisive action and merely prolongs a war that has killed hundreds of thousands of soldiers and destabilised Europe.

Veteran US diplomat Dan Fried said that, while allowing the Kremlin to set the parameters of the negotiations could prove a major mistake, a workable deal could still emerge.

"Sometimes throwing things up, overturning the table, can be useful," said Fried, who worked in both Republican and Democratic administrations and is now at the Atlantic Council think-tank. "And Trump has got everybody now thinking about what a plan would look like."

That disruptive style has introduced friction and confusion into US foreign policy. Many senior officials inside the State Department and the National Security Council were not briefed on the Russia–Ukraine plan until it leaked to the press, sources familiar with the matter said.

The acting US ambassador to Kyiv, Julie Davis, who had only just learned about the plan, was instructed by the White House to brief Army Secretary Dan Driscoll shortly before his talks with Ukrainian officials, according to two sources familiar with the situation.

Driscoll was in Kyiv for meetings not focused on the peace plan but shifted to presenting it to Ukrainian officials, a US official said.

The US Army referred questions about Driscoll's role to the White House. The White House did not directly address questions about Driscoll's meeting in Kyiv, but the senior US official insisted the process of formulating the Ukraine plan was "not chaotic at all, it was quite seamless." The plan was discussed by Witkoff, Rubio and Vice President JD Vance and then approved by Trump, the official said.

Emma Ashford, a senior fellow at the Stimson Center think-tank in Washington, said that with Ukraine experts sidelined, diplomacy initially focused on Ukraine's rare earth minerals and the involvement of business deals that distracted from the core dispute between Ukraine and Russia.

"It's taken them a very long time to get to the crux of some of these issues," Ashford said, adding that the US approach had also left partners confused about which official represented the true US position.

Key points of the Trump Plan
Security Guarantees & Non-Aggression
A comprehensive non-aggression pact is signed between Russia, Ukraine, and Europe. Ukraine gets US-backed security guarantees, while committing not to join NATO.
Territorial Settlements
Crimea, Luhansk, and Donetsk are recognised de facto as Russian. Kherson and Zaporizhzhia are frozen along current lines, with a demilitarised buffer in Donetsk.
Military & NATO Limits
Ukraine's armed forces are capped at 600,000. NATO will not expand further and will not deploy troops inside Ukraine.
Reconstruction & Sanctions Framework
Major reconstruction funded through frozen Russian assets and international investment. Russia gradually receives sanctions relief and is reintegrated into the global economy.
Oversight & Ceasefire
A Peace Council chaired by Trump oversees the deal. Ceasefire begins once troops pull back to agreed positions, with sanctions applied for violations.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Protesters take part in a march against a proposal to move China's embassy to a new site, a stones-throw from The Tower of London, in London on Saturday. AFP

Frank Gehry, the most celebrated architect of his time, dies at 96

Frank Gehry

Frank Gehry, who designed some of the most imaginative buildings ever constructed and achieved a level of worldwide acclaim seldom afforded any architect, has died at 96, AP/PTI reports from Los Angeles.

Gehry died Friday in his home in Santa Monica after a brief respiratory illness, said Meaghan Lloyd, chief of staff at Gehry Partners LLP. Gehry's fascination with modern pop art led to the creation of some of the most striking buildings ever constructed. Among his many masterpieces are the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain; The Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and Berlin's DZ Bank Building. He also designed an expansion of Facebook's Northern California headquarters at the insistence of the company's CEO, Mark Zuckerberg. Gehry was awarded every major prize architecture has to offer, including the field's top honour, the Pritzker Prize. Other honours include the Royal Institute of British Architects gold medal, the Americans for the Arts lifetime achievement award, and his native country's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Canada.

China summons international media

China's national security agency in Hong Kong summoned international media representatives for a "regulatory talk" on Saturday, saying some had spread false information and smeared the government in recent reports on a deadly fire and upcoming legislative elections, AFP reports from Hong Kong.

Senior journalists from several major outlets operating in the city, including AFP, were summoned to the meeting by the Office for Safeguarding National Security (OSNS), which was opened in 2020 following Beijing's imposition of a wide-ranging national security law on the city. Through the OSNS, Beijing's security agents operate openly in Hong Kong, with powers to investigate and prosecute national security crimes.

5 killed as Pak, Afghanistan trade heavy border fire

Border tensions flare after failed peace talks

KABUL, REUTERS

A Pakistani army tank stands at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Chaman on Saturday, following overnight cross-border fire between the two countries. AFP

Pakistan and Afghanistan exchanged heavy fire along their border late on Friday, officials from both countries said, killing at least five people amid heightened tensions following failed peace talks last weekend.

Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Pakistani forces launched attacks in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province.

His deputy, Hamdullah Fitra, told Reuters that shelling by Pakistan killed five people, including a Taliban member. A spokesman for Pakistan's prime minister said Afghan forces carried out "unprovoked firing" along the Chaman border.

"Pakistan remains fully alert and committed to ensuring its territorial integrity and the safety of our citizens," spokesman Mosharraf Zaidi said in a statement.

The exchange came nearly a week after a new round of peace talks between the South Asian neighbours ended without a breakthrough, although both sides agreed to continue their fragile ceasefire.

The talks in Saudi Arabia last weekend were the latest in a series of meetings hosted by Qatar, Turkey and Saudi Arabia to cool tensions following deadly border clashes in October. At the heart of the dispute, Islamabad says Afghan-based militants have carried out recent attacks in Pakistan, including suicide bombings involving Afghan nationals.

Kabul denied the charge, saying it could not be held responsible for security inside Pakistan.

Dozens were killed in October's clashes, the worst violence on the border since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in 2021.

SC to decide Trump's birthright citizenship order

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: The Supreme Court agreed on Friday to take up the constitutionality of President Donald Trump's order on birthright citizenship declaring that children born to parents who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens.

The justices will hear Trump's appeal of a lower-court ruling that struck down the citizenship restrictions. They have not taken effect anywhere in the country.

The case will be argued in the spring. A definitive ruling is expected by early summer. The birthright citizenship order, which Trump signed on January 20, the first day of his second term, is part of his Republican administration's broad immigration crackdown.

Other actions include immigration enforcement surges in several cities and the first peacetime invocation of the 18th-century Alien Enemies Act.

The administration is facing multiple court challenges, and the high court has sent mixed signals in emergency orders it has issued.

12 killed in South Africa hostel mass shooting

JOHANNESBURG, AFP

Gunmen stormed a hostel in South Africa's capital, Pretoria, on Saturday, killing a dozen people, including a three-year-old child, at a site police said was illegally selling alcohol.

The attack is the latest in a string of mass shootings that have shocked the crime-weary country of 63 million people, which suffers one of the highest murder rates in the world.

"I can confirm that a total of 25 people were shot," police spokeswoman Athlenda Mathe said.

Ten had died at the scene in Saulsville township, 18 kilometres (11 miles) west of Pretoria, while two died in hospital, she said. The twelfth victim succumbed to injuries on Saturday afternoon.

Three gunmen entered what Mathe described as an "illegal shebeen" inside the hostel at around 4:30 am (0230 GMT) and indiscriminately fired at a group of men who were drinking. "Shebeen" is a word used to describe an informal bar or tavern.

One 12-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl were also among those killed.

"Quite an unfortunate incident. Police were only alerted to this incident at around 6 o'clock," said Mathe.

Police said the motive was unknown and no arrests had been made, with a manhunt under way for the unidentified suspects.

"We are having a serious challenge when it comes to these illegal and unlicensed liquor premises," Mathe said, adding that they are the locations where most mass shootings occur.

"Innocent people also get caught up in the crossfire," she told public broadcaster SABC.

South Africa, the continent's most industrialised nation, is grappling with entrenched crime and corruption driven by organised networks.

Shootings are common and are often fuelled by gang violence and alcohol.

Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has vowed to go to Norway to receive her Nobel Peace Prize, defying a warning from Caracas. AFP FILE

Smuggling Indians: Woman charged

A 42-year-old woman has been charged for her role in an international smuggling conspiracy under which individuals primarily from India were brought illegally to the US across the border from Canada, PTI reports from New York.

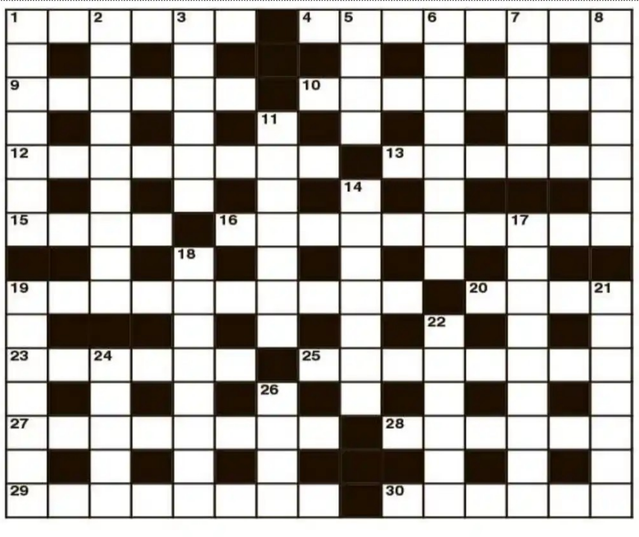
Stacey Taylor of Plattsburgh, New York, appeared for an arraignment this week after a federal grand jury in Albany returned an indictment in October charging her for her role in the smuggling conspiracy, according to an official statement on Friday. Court records show that US Border Patrol agents interdicted Taylor's vehicle near Churubusco, New York, near the Quebec border in the early morning hours in January, and found four foreign nationals inside her vehicle.

Gaza governance body by year-end

An international body tasked with governing the Gaza Strip under the next phase of the US-brokered ceasefire is expected to be announced by the end of the year, AP/PTI reports from Doha.

According to the ceasefire agreement, the authority — known as the Board of Peace and chaired by US President Donald Trump — is to oversee Gaza's reconstruction under a two-year, renewable UN mandate. It will include about a dozen other Middle Eastern and Western leaders, an Arab official and a Western diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2657 ◆



ACROSS
1 Tediously familiar (3,3)
4 In chains (8)
9 Rodeo rider (6)
10 Not to mention (3,5)
12 In point of fact (8)
13 Afternoon sleep (6)
15 Grim fate (4)
16 Inveterate (4-6)
19 Of good character (10)
20 Short piece of satire (4)
23 Make up for (6)
25 Revealing (4-4)
27 Unbecoming (5,3)
28 Capital of the Philippines (6)
29 The weather (8)
30 Contemptibly small (6)

DOWN
1 Plantation of fruit trees (7)
2 Go on strike (4,5)
3 Hooded waterproof jacket (6)
5 Pay attention to (4)
6 Woodwind instrument (8)
7 Attractive physical appearance (5)
8 Uncompromisingly conservative (7)
11 As early as this (7)
14 Dog with large pendant ears (7)
17 Be offended by (4,5)
18 Avoid humiliation (4,4)
19 Country of eastern Europe (7)
21 Curative treatment (7)
22 Make glad (6)
24 Author of Robinson Crusoe (5)
26 Indirect suggestion (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4017

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, Tipsy cake 10, Wear thin 12, A-c-re 13, Tip-pet 14, Top-coat 15, Gets round 17, Character 18, Tw(it)-addle 20, Pus-he-s 21, Emil (rev) 24, Followed 26, Clearing 28, N-E-ed (rev) 29, Fairly 31, Pointer 34, On the s-pot 36, For my part 38, Swolle-N 39, Re-L-ish 40, Deal 41, Conclude 42, Extension.
DOWN: 1, S-tra-ight 2, Spirit 3, Mani-cure 4, Peeped 5, Two ticks 6, Casts an eye 7, Stop-gap 8, H-I-t-o-ut 11, Star-tle 16, Riddle 19, (me)Al-one 20, Pad 22, M-a-net 23, B-rain-y 25, Wrapping up 26, Cr(on)y 27, End-or-se(em) 30, Returned 31, Porosity 32, Rattling 33, Hem-lock 35, Took on 36, F-all-en 37, Ale-xis.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Annoyance 10, Murderer 12, Kerb 13, Wealth 14, Neptune 15, Makeshift 17, Supersede 18, Nuclear 20, Dismal 21, Smug 24, Saucepan 26, Clothing 28, Idea 29, Twelve 31, Ominous 34, Preferred 36, Falsehood 38, Tornado 39, Bought 40, Gale 41, Schooner 42, Tombstone.
DOWN: 1, Marksman 2, Anorak 3, Inferior 4, Pellet 5, Emphasis 6, Grand piano 7, Leopard 8, Bemuse 11, Revenge 16, Stench 19, Craze 20, Din 22, Mango 23, Thrive 25, Power point 26, Cue 27, Dispute 30, adybird 31, Oklahoma 32, Saddened 33, Hexagon 35, Enrich 36, Faulty 37, Orator.

SU DO KU X - 3758

			8		7			
	6			5		1		
8		3						5
1				4				
				9				
6	9	8		3				
							9	
	3			1			8	2
4							1	

SOLUTION TO 3757

7	8	4	9	5	6	1	2	3
3	2	9	1	8	7	6	4	5
5	6	1	2	3	4	8	7	9
6	4	3	8	2	1	5	9	7
8	7	5	4	9	3	2	6	1
9	1	2	6	7	5	3	8	4
1	9	7	3	6	8	4	5	2
4	5	6	7	1	2	9	3	8
2	3	8	5	4	9	7	1	6

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

PRICEY AFFAIR Fast bowling is the most physically demanding job, and no amount of care can prevent injuries

BREAKING DOWN fast bowlers' breakdown

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The second you pick a cricket ball and decide to become a fast bowler, you knowingly sign up for a journey that will see you spend a reasonable amount of time and money on hospitals and rehab centres.

Imagine a genuine quick running in at full speed before landing on their front foot to deliver a ball down to the other end.

Many strength and conditioning coaches and biomechanical experts compare this movement to a minor car crash, as fast bowling can have similar effects on the body.

"Fast bowling is a very unnatural motion," former Indian team's strength and conditioning coach Ramji Srinivasan tells DHoS. "It is about creating momentum, acceleration, braking and deceleration. It is not a standard human movement, something the body is not designed to perform on a daily basis."

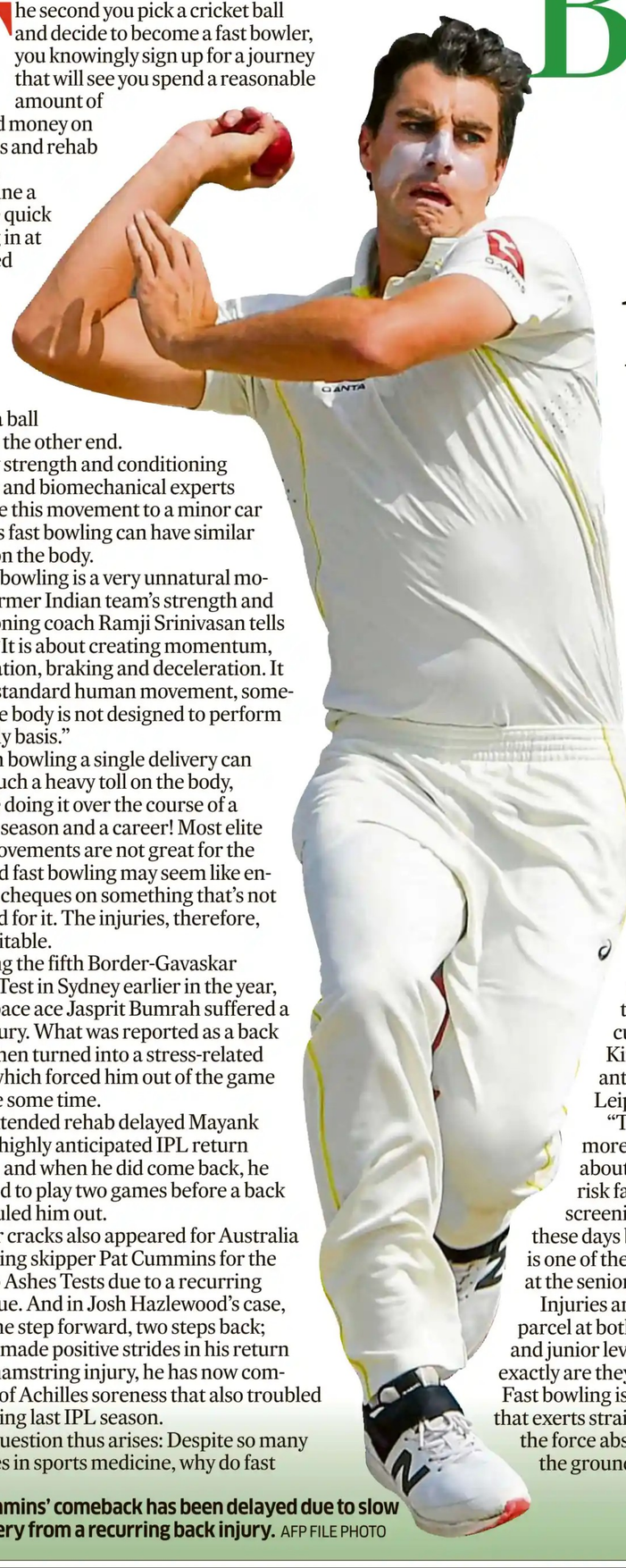
When bowling a single delivery can have a such a heavy toll on the body, imagine doing it over the course of a game, a season and a career! Most elite sport movements are not great for the body and fast bowling may seem like encashing cheques on something that's not designed for it. The injuries, therefore, are inevitable.

During the fifth Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test in Sydney earlier in the year, India's pace ace Jasprit Bumrah suffered a back injury. What was reported as a back spasm then turned into a stress-related injury, which forced him out of the game for quite some time.

An extended rehab delayed Mayank Yadav's highly anticipated IPL return in April, and when he did come back, he managed to play two games before a back injury ruled him out.

Major cracks also appeared for Australia after losing skipper Pat Cummins for the first two Ashes Tests due to a recurring back issue. And in Josh Hazlewood's case, it was one step forward, two steps back; after he made positive strides in his return from a hamstring injury, he has now complained of Achilles soreness that also troubled him during last IPL season.

The question thus arises: Despite so many advances in sports medicine, why do fast bowlers continue to break down so often?



Pat Cummins' comeback has been delayed due to slow recovery from a recurring back injury. AFP FILE PHOTO

"Players are still breaking down and will continue to do so in the future, despite advances in science," former Indian cricket team physiotherapist and current Punjab Kings consultant Andrew Leipus says.

"There is a lot more that we know about injuries, risk factors and screening for them these days but workload is one of the main issues at the senior level."

Injuries are a part and parcel at both senior and junior levels, but how exactly are they caused? Fast bowling is a motion that exerts strain, pushing the force absorbed from the ground up the body chain through the calf, hamstring, glutes and the back. And various injuries result from several factors.

"The main reasons for injuries are wrong biomechanical movements and bowling techniques. The other reasons are a lack of strength and conditioning in the core muscle groups that initiate the (bowling) movement and also break it," says Srinivasan.

"You have a muscle that accelerates, a muscle that stabilises and a muscle that decelerates. All three of these aspects have to work in tandem. If you observe, bowlers who are around the 120-130 mark will not have any major issues. So anybody bowling at over 135 to 140, or beyond 140 clicks, that's where most of them break down," he adds.

While also touching on the frequency with which fast bowlers are breaking down, Srinivasan highlights that accelerating the return process can sometimes do more harm than good.

"Everyone wants to gain rhythm back too soon. So hurrying through things does not help. Playing one format and jumping into the next quickly does not help either. There needs to be progression over time because energy systems for different formats differ.

"The body has to be adaptable. So, for that, time is a factor. A bowler is not rushed into play but there are possibilities. And the most essential thing is progression in their bowling load."

The braced front leg is a common trait among fast bowlers, allowing momentum to be directed from the run-up to ball release. However, it comes at a price of further amplifying the stress on the lower back. When asked about the load, Leipus said that no one bowling action stands out and technique is about individuality.

Jasprit Bumrah has one of the most physically taxing bowling actions. PTI FILE PHOTO

"There are two types of pace bowlers - one who locks his front knee and the other who lets that front leg collapse. So the one who collapses the front leg attenuates or dissipates some of those ground reaction forces through the musculoskeletal system (combining the skeletal system with the muscular one).

"Those that keep that front leg extended have to brace and dissipate those forces in other ways and that's generally through the hip, spine and trunk follow-through. There's no consensus on the best action because technique is individual and both can produce quite a lot of pace."

As with any other problem, the risk of injury can be reduced by handling it appropriately. However, the process starts from the junior level or when the athlete's body is not fully mature in terms of strength.

"A fast bowler needs to be assessed and analysed over time," says Srinivasan. "When an athlete is in the 14-16 or 14-18 age group, there is a growth spurt. If you can identify the issues then and there, many problems can be solved in the later stages. Injury prevention is a process involved in the initial stages that can prevent issues in the long run. Something similar to an LTAD (long-term athlete development) programme," he explains.

When asked how an athlete's injury can be prevented from a physio's point of view, Leipus shared similar sentiments while pointing out that force on the body can be more than eight times the body weight.

"Junior cricket has somewhat different biological factors. It's the Holy Grail to predict and prevent injuries. Sometimes the loads (force on the body) can be more than this (eight times the body weight), depending on the bowler and their action but it's difficult to change this at the senior level because that pattern of movement is well developed."

Having said that, at the senior level, while injuries are challenging to be completely prevented, they can be managed, but there is no one way to do it.

"Every fast bowler is different, like a thumb impression. You have to work on each individual, with respect to their own conditioning, their balance and dynamic stability, function stability and strength, aerobic fitness, among others. And their workloads will have to be a team process. From the bowler, coach, S&C, physio, etc, so protecting a bowler is a collective effort," Srinivasan said.

"You can also address footwear, biomechanics and other factors such as fatigue and recovery, both between bowling spells and between sessions and days. And depending on the data, bowlers can be managed more effectively," added Leipus.

Pace comes at a price. An injury to a fast bowler is not an accident; it is what he/she signs up for.

HOCKEY MEN'S JUNIOR WORLD CUP

India up against mighty Germany

After surviving Belgium scare, hosts eye improved show

Indians can't afford to lower their guard even for a moment against a strong Germany in the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup semifinals in Chennai on Sunday. PTI

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Having escaped by the skin of their teeth in the quarterfinal, India face a more formidable challenge in the FIH Men's Junior World Cup semifinals here on Sunday.

On the backfoot from the beginning, crucial saves from goalkeeper Princedeep Singh and a couple of timely drag-flicks by defender Sharda Nand Tiwari and captain Rohit Yadav saw the hosts survive a nail-biter against world No. 7 Belgium at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium on Friday.

Having battled their way into the semifinals, world No. 2 India are now up against a tougher opponent -- the world No. 1 Germany. Another do or die game where mistakes will be mercilessly punished and bravery mightily rewarded.

Clearly perturbed by his teams last-minute mishap that saw Belgium equalise 2-2 to force the match into a tense shootout, coach PR Sreejesh was seen fuming after the home players made themselves look sheepish in front of a packed house.

"Not at all, you can't sleep! In the last minutes, you can't sleep," the 37-year-old former India goalkeeper exclaimed during the post-match interaction on Friday.

"Because they were having that game (on India's side with 2-1 lead). These shootouts, it can go in any direction. If the goalkeeper does one good save, then (you're) done. Finished. So you don't need to go that far to win this match, you just need to finish it there itself. That was an easy, silly mistake."

On the other hand, it wasn't all hunky-dory for defending champions Germany either. The seven-time title holders were chased, choked and given a scare by last edition's runners-up France in their last-eight contest. Following a 2-2 scoreline at full-time, the Ben Hasbach-led side held their nerve to come through via shootouts.

Going by both the opponents' quarterfinal encounters, both India and Germany have experienced their fair share of brilliance and instability. While India will take solace in the fact that they have so far scored a total of 31 goals and conceded two -- as opposed to Germany's 18 goals scored to three conceded -- a tense victory could well be the trigger the Rohit-led side needed to up their game.

"We need to introspect about the things we've done. Because Germany have a different style of game. They are a more structured and disciplined team. So we need to come up with new variations," said Sreejesh about the opponents India next face.

"The best thing is, after the next match it will be the final. I've been to that place twice, if you cross that hurdle, you are walking into the final with (at least) a silver medal around your neck. Semifinal is purely pressure. Control the game and play simple. That will be the message."

Funded by players' parents, Kiwis show their Haka spirit

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Ka mate, ka mate, ka ora, ka ora (I die, I die, I live, I live). The iconic haka theme song in Maori is about survival and triumph despite hardships. It is a chant that also reflects the spirit of the Kiwis.

Unlike the All Blacks (New Zealand's rugby team), there was no haka performed by the Black Sticks before the start of each match at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup here. But everybody following the tournament got to witness the fierce determination and unity of the New Zealand squad both on and off the field.

FIH No. 12 team, coached by Mike Delaney, entered the knockouts as the lowest-ranked among the final eight teams. Following wins over Japan (3-2) and China (5-3) and an impressive draw against world No. 3 Argentina (3-3) in Pool C games, New Zealand almost caused the upset of the tournament when they were three seconds away from a potential semifinal berth.

Cornered by world No. 4 Spain, who took a 3-0 lead by the end of the first quarter, the New Zealanders were written off after the first 15 minutes of the quarterfinal game in Chennai on Friday. The boys in all-white shirts and shorts, however, rose from the ashes levelling 3-3 with 47 seconds left for full-time. But a penalty corner conversion by Spain in the dying moments meant their spirited performance ended in a 3-4 heartbreak.

"For what we've got, we do really, really well," said Alan Lints, father of 21-year-old player Sam Lints, with a smile that is both proud and grateful. "We're so proud of our team," added Alan, one among the 50-plus family and friends accompanying the team to support them here. Given the hardships they face off the field to keep themselves floating, these reactions aren't irrational. With no lengthy national camps, the team-mates, who play in different regions of the country, came together only at the airport before flying to India. Flight delays, loss of luggage and alien conditions were added challenges.

"I want to emphasise that this is all self-funded," revealed Alan, whose son Sam scored a brace against Spain. "As parents or family we've all put in about, say, 8,000 (NZ dollars) each for us to get here. The second thing is that the boys trained in their regions. Because of the lack of finance, we have played only two events (Sultan of Johor Cup in November and Oceania Cup in January) this year. Only a total of nine games in 11 months."

Quite a journey marked by valleys and troughs, much like their country's landscape but the islanders chose to ignore issues and make the most of the opportunity.

Upane. Kaupane. Whiti te ra (I rise up from the darkness of the pit and ascend to the light of the sun).

World no. 12 New Zealand impressed at the Junior World Cup before losing narrowly in quarterfinal. HI MEDIA

Max Verstappen. AFP

Max takes pole in finale

ABU DHABI, AFP

Red Bull's Max Verstappen outgunned his two title rivals from McLaren to take pole position for the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and strengthen his bid for a fifth successive title.

Title leader Lando Norris, who is 12 points ahead of Verstappen and will win the title if he finishes on the podium, will start alongside him on the front row with McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri in third.

George Russell set the early pace in qualifying and will start from fourth with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc fifth.

"We found a bit more lap time and I'm just incredibly happy to be in first," said Verstappen. That's the only thing we can do, we can control, to maximise what we have and what we can with the car and we definitely did that in qualifying."

Grid position has been crucial at Abu Dhabi with each of the last 12 races won by cars starting on the front row, 10 of them by the pole-sitter.

It is Verstappen's 48th pole and he will need outscore Norris by 13 points if he is to take the title on Sunday or win the race and pray that the Englishman finishes off the podium.

Villa end Arsenal's unbeaten run with dramatic win

BIRMINGHAM, AFP: Aston Villa ended Arsenal's 18-match unbeaten run to blow the Premier League title race wide open on Saturday as Manchester City beat Sunderland 3-0 to close within two points of the leaders.

Emiliano Buendia's stoppage-time strike secured a 2-1 victory for Villa and a ninth win in 10 league games since taking just three points from their opening five matches of the season.

City took full advantage of Arsenal's defeat to close the gap at the top with a routine 3-0 win over Sunderland. On a rare shot-shy day for Erling Haaland, City's centre-backs lead the way as Ruben Dias blasted into the top corner from distance before Josko Gvardiol headed in a second before half-time.

Chelsea's title challenge is fading fast after three games without a win. Cole Palmer's return to the starting line-up for the first time since September could not inspire the Blues as they were held 0-0 at Bournemouth to sit eight points off the lead in fourth.

Tottenham eased the pressure on Thomas Frank with their second home league win of the season, against his former club Brentford. Spurs were winless in five games in all competitions, but moved back into the top half with a 2-0 win courtesy of first-half goals from Richarlison and Xavi Simons.

Newcastle continued their upward trajectory with a 2-1 win over 10-man Burnley to climb up to 10th.

Results: Aston Villa: 2 (Cash 36th, Buendia 90+5) bt Arsenal: 1 (Trossard 52nd); Bournemouth: 0 drew with Chelsea: 0; Everton: 3 (Milenkovic 2nd og, Barry 45+3, Dewsbury-Hall 81st) bt Nottingham Forest: 0; Manchester City: 3 (Dias 31st, Gvardiol 35th, Foden 65th) bt Sunderland: 0; Newcastle: 2 (Guimaraes 31st, Gordon 45+8 pen) bt Burnley: 1 (Flemming 90+4 pen); Tottenham: 2 (Richarlison 25th, Simons 43rd) bt Brentford: 0.

Gill cleared to play opening T20I

CUTTACK, PTI: India's T20I vice-captain Shubman Gill has been cleared by the Sports Science team of the BCCI's Centre of Excellence to play the opening T20I against South Africa after successfully completing his rehabilitation from a neck injury sustained during the Kolkata Test.

"Shubman Gill has successfully completed his rehabilitation at CoE and has met the requisite criteria to be declared fit for all formats of the game," a communication from the CoE has gone to the team management's Sports Science and Medicine (SSM) team, comprising physio Kamlesh Jain, Adrian Le Roux.

Arrived wins main event

KOLKATA RESULTS

Adhirajsjing Jodha-trained Arrived, ridden by MS Deora, won the Calcutta 2000 Guineas, the feature event of the Calcutta races on Saturday.

1. Stringfellows Handicap - 1600M: Oromelo (Anand Chopra) Vaibhav 1; Dubai Prince (Sameer) 2; Macchiato (Vishal Bunde) 3; Carbatuib (JH Arul) 4; Wb: 4-1/2, 1-3/4L, Lnk. T: 1:40.34. TB: Javed Khan. Fav: Hermes.

2. Aristotle Handciap -2400M: Star Studded (Daulat Chabria) Vaibhav 1; Champagnesupernova (Hasib Alam) 2; Goodwill (Vishal Bunde) 3; Lucky Nine (Gaurav Singh) 4; Wb: Dist, Dist, 5L.. T: 2:31.57. TB: Rajesh Narredu. Fav: Star Studded.

3. Xisca Handicap (Div I) - 1200M: Chillylady (Rustom Daroga) Md Sameer 1; Knotty Affair (RS Bhati) 2; Spirit Bay (JH Arul) 3; Cashable (Vishal Bunde) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 3, 1/2L. 1:13.12. TB: Shafiq Khan. Fav: Cashable.

4. Xisca Handicap (Div II) - 1200M: Dubai King (Mohammed Shakeel) Shezad Khan 1; Cyrenaica (MS Deora) 2; Superimose (Md Sameer) 3; Mrs Brando (A Prakash) 4; Wb: Shd, 3/4, Lnk. T: 1:12.63. TB: Shafiq Khan. Fav: Superimpose.

5. Moon Emperor Cup - 1200M: Pluto (Shapoor Mistry) Nikhil Naidu 1; Shine (Hindu Singh) 2; Outlander (Vaibhav) 3; Blinky Bill (JH Arul) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, Lnk, 1-1/2L. T: 1:11.91. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Shine.

6. Calcutta 2000 Guineas - 1600M: Arrived (Gautam Lala) MS Deora 1; Mahler (Hindu Singh) 2; Super Star (A Prakash) 3; Gold Empire (Vishal Bunde) 4; Wb: 1, 2-3/4L, 3/4L. T: 1:36.33. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Superstar.

7. Aboline Handicap (Div I) - 1400M: Hermod (Cheriyan Abraham) Vishal Bunde 1; Only Dreams (Tejeshwar) 2; Schoenberg (Hindu Singh) 3; Immortal Beauty(Vaibhav) 4; Wb: 3/4, 3-1/2, 1-1/4L. T: 1-25.81. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Schoenberg.

8. Aboline Handicap (Div II) - 1400M: Cascade (Jaydev Mody) Vaibhav 1; Queen Of Mafia (MS Deora) 2; Veneno (Gaurav Singh) 3; Keitaro (A Prakash) 4; Wb: Shd, Lnk, Nk. T: 1:26.56. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Laguna Seca.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 64w; 20, 14, 20p; Fc: Rs 368; Q: Rs 334; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 69; Tri: Rs 4,407 & 3,778; Ex: Rs 6,666 & 1,632.
II race: Rs 14w; 12, 18p; Fc: Rs 48; Q: Rs 37; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 27; Tri: Rs 45 & 10;
III race: Rs 98w; 24, 12, 15p; Fc: Rs 814; Q: Rs 82; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 1,925 & 1,275; Ex: Rs 3,998 & 1,346.
IV race: Rs 488w; 57, 22, 15p: Fc: Rs 3,104. Q: Rs 1,357; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 48,263 (c/o). Ex: Rs 60,364 (c/o).
V race: Rs 45w; 17, 12, 32p; Fc: Rs 120; Q: Rs 47; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 80; Tri: Rs 1,184 & 786; Ex: Rs 85,557 (c/o) & 3,666 .
VI race: Rs 20w; 15, 14p; Fc: Rs 163; Q: Rs 56; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 254 & 33; Ex: Rs 562 & 434.
VII race: Rs 37w; 13, 16, 11p; Fc: Rs 213; Q: Rs 121; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 55; Tri: Rs 300 & 88; Ex: Rs 3,209 & 2,134.
VIII race: Rs 86w; 26, 22, 22p; Fc: Rs 1,811; Q: Rs 407; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 58; Tri: Rs 4,429 & 2,847; Ex: Rs 29,745 & 8,498.
Jackpot: Rs 3,88,847 (1). **Runner-up:** Rs 8,332 (20). **I treble:** Rs 7,068 (3). II treble: Rs 40,607 (c/o). **III treble:** Rs 1,119 (92).

Psychic Star for feature

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Pesi Shroff-trained Psychic Star, to be ridden by G Vivek, is fancied to win the AC Ardeshir Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races to be run over a mile at the races on Sunday.
The first race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Ibrahim A Rahimtoola Trophy - 1200M: Ariyana Star 1, Majestic Warrior 2, Red Merlot 3.
2. Jayant M Shah & Champak M Shah Gold Trophy - 1400M: Big Bay 1, Eagle Day 2.
3. Sir Rahimtoola Chinoy Cup - 1600M: Brasilier 1, Giant Gold 2, Majesticus 3.
4. AC Ardeshir Trophy - 1600M: Psychic Star 1, Regina Memorabilis 2, Sansissimo 3.
5. Prince Karim Aga Khan IV Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Lady Scarlet 1, Nebula 2, Soleva 3.
6. Samuel Nathan Plate - 1200M: You 1, Sentinel 2, We Still Believe 3.
Day's best: Brasilier.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 3, 4 & 5.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Ashes 2nd Test: Australia vs England **(Day 4, 9:30 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Brighton vs West Ham **(7:30 pm)**, Fulham vs Crystal Palace **(10:00 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

AIFF Super Cup: East Bengal FC vs FC Goa **(final, 7:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel.**

HOCKEY

Men's Jr World Cup semifinals: Spain vs Argentina **(5:30 pm)**; India vs Germany **(8:00 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

FORMULA 1

Abu Dhabi GP: main race **(6:30 pm). LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET THIRD ODI

Dominant India clinch series

Jaiswal's maiden ton, Kohli & Rohit's fifties seal it for hosts

Indian players celebrate with the ODI series trophy after beating South Africa 2-1 in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. PTI

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

Yashasvi Jaiswal reeled off an unbeaten maiden ODI hundred, carrying India to a nine-wicket victory in the third and final one-dayer and a 2-1 series win against South Africa here on Saturday.

It was always a case of the margin of victory once Jaiswal (116 not out, 121 balls) and his senior opening partner Rohit Sharma (75, 73 balls) stitched 155 runs in 25.5 overs, and it turned precisely so as India finished with 271 for one in 39.5 overs, chasing 271.

Virat Kohli contributed a classy 65 not out off 45 deliveries.

Quinton de Kock made a refined 106 off 89 balls, his 23rd ton in ODIs, but it remained a shiny footnote as Indian batters dictated the course with authority.

Jaiswal was not comfortable initially in his innings but the assured presence of Rohit at the other end was a massive blessing for him.

Rohit guided the understudy, who was playing only his fourth ODI, through some early turbulent phases, and also did the bulk of the scoring.

The 38-year-old reached his fifty in 54 balls, tranquil by his standards but those patented, magical swivel pull shots, three of them sailed for sixes, lent the innings a touch of aggression.

It enabled Jaiswal to collect runs unhurriedly, and walked to fifty in 75 balls. But once he reached his fifty, the left-hander grew in confidence and opened a lot more, unbuckling some of those drives and cuts that he carefully avoided in the early phase of his innings.

Rohit, who became the fourth Indian batter to reach 20000 international runs during his knock after Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Kohli, looked set for another hundred.

But an ill-timed sweep off left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj cut short his stay. But that didn't deter Jaiswal, who, accompanied by Kohli, kept India's innings moving.

The 23-year-old reached the coveted three-figure mark in 111 balls with a single off pacer Corbin Bosch and immediately tore his helmet away to slip into an energetic celebration — a combination of sprint, jump, roar and punch in the air.

Jaiswal and a typically assertive Kohli added 156 runs for the second wicket as India calmly went past the target to whip some frenzy among a nearly 27000-strong crowd.

Earlier, a largely disciplined bowling effort also played its part in keeping South Africa to a manageable total, an effort led by pacer Prasidh Krishna (4/66) and Kuldeep Yadav (4/41).

After Arshdeep Singh sent back Ryan Rickelton early, De Kock (106, 89 balls, 8x4, 6x4) struck his seventh century against India and put on 113 runs off 124 balls with skipper Temba Bavuma (48, 67 balls) as the visitors moved to a healthy position.

De Kock was severe on Prasidh (4/66), who erred on length continuously in his first spell (2-0-27-0). The left-hander biffed the pacer for 6, 6, 4 in his second over to milk 18 runs.

The 32-year-old quickly pounced on anything that was short, and pacers Prasidh and Harshit Rana offered him plenty of feed on his pet areas.

De Kock moved to fifty in 42 balls, and never let the tempo down reaching his hundred in 79 balls.

India found temporary relief when Ravindra Jadeja induced a false slash from Bavuma (48, 67 balls) to get caught by Kohli at point.

But the tourists got another move on through a 54-run partnership between De Kock and Matthew Breetzke for the third wicket, and at 168 for two in 28 overs they were in a good position to press on.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA

De Kock b Prasidh	106
Rickelton c Rahul b Arshdeep	0
Bavuma c Kohli b Jadeja	48
Breetzke lbw b Prasidh	24
Markram c Kohli b Prasidh	1
Brevis c Rohit b Kuldeep	29
Jansen c Jadeja b Kuldeep	17
Bosch c & b Kuldeep	9
Maharaj (not out)	20
Ngidi lbw b Kuldeep	1
Baartman b Prasidh	3
Extras (LB-4, W-7, NB-1)	12.
TOTAL (all out, 47.5 overs)	**270.**

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 114-2, 168-3, 170-4, 199-5, 234-6, 235-7, 252-8, 258-9
Bowling: Arshdeep 8-1-36-1, Rana 8-2-44-0, Prasidh 9.5-0-66-4, Jadeja 9-0-50-1, Kuldeep 10-1-41-4, Tilak 3-0-29-0.

INDIA

Jaiswal (not out)	116
Rohit c Breetzke b Maharaj	75
Kohli (not out)	65
Extras (LB-2, W-13)	15
TOTAL (for 1 wkt, 39.5 overs)	**...271**

Fall of wicket: 1-155.
Bowling: Jansen 8-1-39-0, Ngidi 6.5-0-56-0, Maharaj 10-0-44-1, Baartman 7-0-60-0, Bosch 6-0-53-0, Markram 2-0-17-0.
Result: India won by 9 wkts. **Series:** India win three-match series 2-1.
PoM: Yashasvi Jaiswal.
PoS: Virat Kohli.

India break toss jinx

India finally won an ODI toss after losing 20 in a row as stand-in skipper KL Rahul broke the scarcely believable jinx against South Africa on Saturday, reports AFP from Visakhapatnam.

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma called heads but the coin came down as tails for skipper Rahul to celebrate with a fist bump as India's curse of a million-to-one ended in Visakhapatnam.

Padikkal, Vyshak's fight go in vain

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy went from bad to worse as they succumbed to their fourth defeat in six games; a struggling Saurashtra eking out a one-run victory in a Group D encounter at the Narendra Modi Stadium A Ground in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Devdutt Padikkal's second consecutive fifty was eclipsed by a collective bowling effort from Saurashtra defending a 179-target, giving them their second win in the tournament.

Padikkal (66, 46b, 9x4, 1x6) and Smaran R (30, 22b, 2x6) kept Karnataka in the hunt after another top-order malfunction as BR Sharath (0, 2b), Macneil Noronha (10, 7b, 1x4) and Karun Nair (6, 8b) were all dismissed cheaply in the first seven overs. Just when things started to go smooth with a 38-ball 54-run stand between Padikkal and Smaran, Ankur Panwar (1/43) removed the former with Karnataka still needing 76.

In the end, they lost their way as Chetan Sakariya (2/37), Jaydev Unadkat (2/29) put in a good show with the ball.

Group D brief scores: Saurashtra: 178/8 in 20 overs (Vishvaraj Jadeja 40, Harvik Desai 28, Siddhant Rana 42, Jay Gohil 27; Vijaykumar Vyshak 3-28) bt Karnataka: 177/9 in 20 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 66, Smaran R 30; Jaydev Unadkat 2-29, Chetan Sakariya 2-37, Prerak Mankad 2-37). Jharkhand: 207/3 in 20 overs (Kumar Kushagra 84 n.o., Virat Singh 72, Anukul Roy n.o.) bt Tamil Nadu: 179/7 in 20 overs (Sai Sudharsan 64, Tushar Raheja 27; Sushant Mishra 2-51, Bal Krishna 2-29).
Tripura: 163/6 in 20 overs (Sridam Paul 43, Tejasvi Jaiswal 51; Rajan Kumar 2-18, Jagadeesha Suchith 2-19) lt to Uttarakhand: 167/6 in 20 overs (Kunal Chandela 51, Avneesh Sudha 26; Swapnil Singh 3-21, Vijay Shankar 2-30).
Delhi: 175/5 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 32, Yash Dhull 38, Ayush Badoni 30, Tejasvi Dahiya 33; Manav Suthar 2-18, Ashok Sharma 2-41) lt to Rajasthan: 177/7 in 20 overs (Shubham Garhwal 29, Karan Lamba 31, Kunal Singh Rathore 26, Mukul Choudhary 62 n.o.; Navdeep Saini 3-15; Suyash Sharma 2-31).

Starc steers Aussies ahead

A wobbly England reach 134/6 at stumps, trailing the hosts by 43 runs

Mitchell Starc scored 77 and then picked up two wickets to put Australia firmly in the driver's seat on the third day of the second Ashes Test on Saturday. AFP

BRISBANE, AFP

Australia are on the brink of grabbing a 2-0 lead in the Ashes series after dominating a demoralised England on the third day of the day-night second Test in Brisbane on Saturday.

The hosts batted England out of the game during the day session at the Gabba then took full advantage of the changed conditions under lights to reduce England to 134 for 6 at stumps, still trailing by 43 runs.

After losing inside two days in Perth, England are staring down the barrel in the match and the series.

When Australia resumed the third day on 378 for 6 with a lead of 44, England would have been hoping to take the last four wickets quickly and not face too large a deficit.

But led by unlikely batting hero Mitchell Starc, Australia made 511 and kept England out on the field during the blisteringly hot day session.

At the close, England skipper Ben Stokes and spinner Will Jacks were holding on grimly, both unbeaten on four runs apiece. Openers Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett had got the visitors off to a rapid start to their second innings, taking them to 45 for no loss at dinner off just six overs.

But once the lights took full effect batting became increasingly difficult with extra movement off the pitch. Duckett was first to go, somewhat unluckily when a ball from Boland kept low and hit the bottom of his bat before smashing into the stumps.

Pope made a scratchy 26, riding his luck on a number of occasions before trying to drive on the up and hitting a sharp return catch to Michael Neser.

Brief scores: England: 334 all out & 134/6 in 35 overs (Zak Crawley 44, Ollie Pope 26; Mitchell Starc 2-48, Michael Neser 2-27, Scott Boland 2-33) vs Australia: (O/n: 378/6): 511 all out in 117.3 overs (Travis Head 33, Jake Weatherald 72, Marnus Labuschagne 65, Steven Smith 61, Cameron Green 45, Alex Carey 63, Mitchell Starc 77; Brydon Carse 4-154, Ben Stokes 3-113).

Greaves' double ton earns Windies draw for the ages

CHRISTCHURCH, AFP

West Indies' Justin Greaves (right) and Kemar Roach walk back after drawing the first Test against New Zealand in Christchurch on Saturday. AFP

An epic 202 not out by Justin Greaves and a stubborn support role by Kemar Roach saw the West Indies salvage a valiant draw in the first Test against New Zealand in Christchurch on Saturday.

Set a colossal target of 531, 113 more than the current record for a successful fourth-innings chase, the West Indies were 457-6 at the end, the second-highest score in the fourth innings.

Greaves battled for almost 10 hours and faced 388 deliveries, bringing up his maiden double century in the penultimate over.

Roach was unbeaten on his Test best of 58 which included facing 72 dot balls when he was on 53.

The pair put on a gutsy 180 for the seventh wicket.

Given the magnitude of the chase, the West Indies saw the draw as a win while New Zealand felt they had lost.

A draw seemed a distant prospect for the tourists when the top order failed to fire yet again and they slumped to 72/4. But New Zealand were down on fire power as injuries to Matt Henry and Nathan Smith reduced their pace attack in the second innings to just Jacob Duffy and Zak Foulkes.

The placid pitch was also of little assistance to the spinners, allowing Shai Hope and Greaves to cash in for the fifth wicket amassing 196 runs in a 64-over stand. The West Indies resumed the final day at 212-4 with a confident Hope and Greaves adding 23 in six overs of spin before blunting the new-ball attack for more than 12 overs, before Hope was dismissed for 140.

Tevin Imlach came and went quickly, lbw to Foulkes.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 231 all out & 466/8 vs West Indies: 167 all out & (O/n: 212/4): 457/6 in 163.3 overs (Shai Hope 140, Justin Greaves 202, Kemar Roach 58 n.o.; Jacob Duffy 3-122).

KSCA goes for polls today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The keenly-watched elections to the Karnataka State Cricket Association will be held here on Sunday on the occasion of the association's 88th Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will be held at M Chinnaswamy Stadium from 10.30 am. The election process will be held from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm and the results are expected to be announced later.

K N Shanth Kumar, Director of The Printers Mysore Private Limited, which publishes Deccan Herald and Prajavani, and former India cricketer Venkatesh Prasad are contesting for the post of president from Team Brijesh and Team Game Changers respectively.

The elections will be held for the post of five office bearers and 10 other members to the Managing Committee with the Mangalore Zone candidate from Team Brijesh having already been declared the winner.

Wheelchair facility

Arrangements have been made to provide wheelchair service at entrance No. 12, KSCA officials said.

Discus thrower Seema appeals 16-month suspension

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Veteran discus thrower Seema Antil Punia **(in pic)** has formally appealed the 16-month suspension handed to her by NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP), confirming that she approached the Appellate Anti-Doping Panel (ADAP) on December 4.

Athletes move to ADAP when they wish to contest sanctions imposed by the disciplinary panel or accepted through a results-management agreement, and the four-time CWG medallist said she was left with no choice after the ADDP rejected her explanation.

The 42-year-old athelte shared documents with *DH*, showing she had declared the oral use of T-clomiphene citrate (100 mg) for 20 days as part of her treatment, which she listed in the doping control form at the time of sample collection. "The sample weren't taken at any competition," said Seema. "It was taken while I was training in Haryana as the authorities told me that I won't be allowed to compete in any events if I don't do the basic training.

"The sample was taken in February 2024 and before that I started my treatment after the National Games (which took place in October-November). I mentioned the same in my form while submitting the sample."

Seema further added that the medication detected was medically necessary.

She admitted to oversight of not filing for the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE).

"A mistake I would admit to is that I didn't fill in the TUE form as I felt I didn't need to inform what I am doing in my personal life as far as the treatment is concerned," she said.

Top-dogs Argentina, Spain enjoy kind draws

WASHINGTON, AFP

Defending champions Argentina will get their World Cup campaign underway against Algeria. AFP FILE PHOTO

Holders Argentina and leading contenders Spain were handed kind draws for the 2026 World Cup in a star-studded ceremony at which US President Donald Trump received FIFA's new peace prize.

The event at the Kennedy Center in Washington started the final countdown to the tournament, six months out from the first-ever 48-team World Cup.

Lionel Messi's Argentina will begin their defense of the trophy they won in Qatar in 2022 by facing Algeria and will also play Austria and debutants Jordan in Group J.

Heavily-fancied Spain, the European champions, will kick off their campaign against first-time qualfiers Cape Verde before also taking on Uruguay and Saudi Arabia in Group H.

Thomas Tuchel's England, seeking to win the World Cup for the first time since 1966, will hope to win Group L that features beaten 2018 finalists Croatia as well as Ghana and Panama.

Two-time winners France, meanwhile, face awkward tests against Senegal and Erling Haaland's Norway in Group I, which will be completed by an intercontinental playoff winner from either Iraq, Bolivia or Suriname.

For the first time, the draw was done in such a way as to ensure the four highest-ranked nations were kept apart -- Spain, Argentina, France and England cannot meet before the semi-finals, if all four top their groups.

However, the path to that stage -- with an extra knockout round now following the group phase -- looks perilous for some of the contenders.

If the top seeds all finish first in their groups, England could, for example, find themselves playing co-hosts Mexico in Mexico City in the last 16 and then Brazil in the quarter-finals, before a last-four clash with Argentina.

"You cannot get carried away with building your way with who you are going to meet if you win the group, if you are second or whatever," said Tuchel.

A total of 104 matches, wll be played. compared to 64 games last time.

WORLD CUP GROUPS

- **Group A: Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, a qualifier**
- Group B: Canada, a qualifier, Qatar, Switzerland
- **Group C: Brazil, Morocco, Haiti, Scotland**
- Group D: United States, Paraguay, Australia, a qualifier
- **Group E: Germany, Curacao, Ivory Coast, Ecuador**
- Group F: Netherlands, Japan, a qualifier, Tunisia
- **Group G: Belgium, Egypt, Iran, New Zealand**
- Group H: Spain, Cape Verde, Saudi Arabia, Uruguay
- **Group I: France, Senegal, a qualifier, Norway**
- Group J: Argentina, Algeria, Austria, Jordan
- **Group K: Portugal, a qualifier, Uzbekistan, Colombia**
- Group L: England, Croatia, Ghana, Panama

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N. R. Pandith Aradhya
President

Dr. Wooday P. Krishna
Honorary General Secretary

Teenage wasteland: The death of hope in Delhi's classrooms

POORVA PAKSHA

Aakash Singh Rathore
as Dr Jekyll is a Professor of Philosophy, Politics and Law, author and editor of over 20 books and counting, and as Mr Hyde, one of India's top-ranking Ironman triathletes
@ASR_metta

Meher Baba, the silent sage from Ahmednagar, once promised that love would outlast every apocalypse. Half a century later, in a rock opera that never quite materialised, The Who's Pete Townshend borrowed the guru's name and fused it with the looping organ of Terry Riley to birth an iconic song that still howls across stadiums and schoolyards: *Baba O'Riley*. Townshend said the track was about a future in which technology would finally deliver its oldest promise – that entertainment would replace religion. Instead, it has begun to deliver despair to India's youth.

'Out here in the fields/ I fight for my meals/ I get my back into my living'.

On November 26, Constitution Day, I stood before five hundred schoolchildren from some of Delhi's most privileged academies at the India International Centre. My brief was simple: speak to them about the values of the Constitution. As usual, I focused on fraternity. Other speakers spoke brilliantly on liberty, equality, and also on the duties of citizens. The students listened politely, as they always do. Then came the questions.

A girl in the second row asked why she should plant trees and cycle to school when the government allows the city to choke every winter. A boy followed: why should citizens fulfil their fundamental duties when the State so brazenly abdicates its own? Another, unusually thoughtful, conceded the moral case for reservation yet asked why the government insists on a zero-sum war – why not create more IIT seats, more medical colleges, so that no caste is asked to pay for the sins of history with its own future?

Then the temperature changed. Someone mentioned Bihar. The room sensed what was coming, commenting on the elections of earlier that week. 'Professor, you advise us to exercise our electoral rights to effect change. But we cannot vote them out. The system is captured.' Everyone nodded, and many clapped. 'There are increasingly cameras everywhere, Aadhaar and biometrics, facial recognition, we are under the slow tightening of the surveillance net – we are afraid to protest, afraid to resist, afraid to be imprisoned for speaking our minds, and we see no escape into economic prosperity, youth unemployment is growing and with AI coming, do we have any hope at all?'

I have taught in America, Britain, throughout the EU, the areas we call the West. For years, this expression of hopelessness by the youth has been a Western speciality: unaffordable cities, vanishing professions, a planet on fire, governments that privatise profit and socialise loss. Europe added its own flavour – endless regulation, tethered bottle caps, biometric borders, and the quiet suffocation of the spirit under the weight of compliance. In those classrooms, the young spoke as though the game were already over.

Teaching in Asia, however, was always different. India was different. India was the country to which bright young expatriates were returning from the West because the horizon still widened every year. There was economic growth; there was opportunity. No longer, it seems.

'Don't cry/ Don't raise your eye/ It's only teenage wasteland'.

These children inherit choking air and poisoned rivers. They will protest at Jantar Mantar, there will be news, there will be violence, there will be noise – and then, the status quo will endure. They inherit a polity that speaks of fraternity while sharpening every old fracture – Hindu against Muslim, 'upper' caste against 'lower', patriarchy against feminism. They inherit artificial intelligence that promises to make their degrees obsolete before they have sat for their examinations. And now they inherit elections that feel pre-decided.

I tried the old professorial reflex: organise, vote, hold power to account. They looked at me with something close to pity. 'Sir', one replied, 'the ballot is no longer a weapon as it was in your day; now it is theatre'.

'Sally, take my hand/ Travel south cross land/ Put out the fire/ And don't look past my shoulder/ The exodus is here/ The happy ones are near/ Let's get together/ Before we get much older'.

I left the hall shaken. For the first time in 25 years of teaching, the despair felt symmetrical. The West had exported its spiritual exhaustion eastward, and India – once the last reservoir of forward-looking energy – had begun to drink from the same toxic cup.

Yet Meher Baba, whose name opens that song, also taught that despair is only love in disguise, waiting for the moment when it is ready to declare itself. These children are angry because they still believe something better is possible. That anger is not the end of the story. I want to believe that it is the first honest note.

'Teenage wasteland/ It's only teenage wasteland/ Teenage wasteland/ Oh, yeah/ Teenage wasteland/ They're all wasted!'

THAT BLIND RHODES SCHOLAR

Humour cannot trump dignity

On November 27, the Supreme Court directed comedian Samay Raina and his associates to conduct two shows every month to raise funds for persons with disabilities, especially those affected by spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). The context? Raina and his team, in their show *India's Got Latent*, mocked persons with SMA, referring to a two-month-old child with SMA requiring an Rs-16 crore injection. Outraged by this crude trivialisation of a life-threatening condition, the SMA Federation approached the Supreme Court seeking action against the undignified portrayal of persons with disabilities (PwDs).

The Supreme Court urged the Solicitor General to consider developing a strong regulatory mechanism to ensure accountability when individuals portray PwDs in a degrading manner, just as the law protects Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from targeted humiliation. This case is far from an isolated instance.

In *Nipun Malhotra v. Sony Pictures*, the Court confronted similar issues. The movie in question, *Aankh Micholi*, used deeply objectionable language, referring to a deaf character as a "soundproof system" and a person with a speech impairment as an "*atki hui cassette*". The Court observed that humour and disability are "uneasy companions" in a society where PwDs are routinely mocked and dehumanised for entertainment. As the Court had earlier noted in *Indibility Creative v. State of West Bengal*, satire directed at marginalised communities can reinforce harmful prejudices and exacerbate discrimination.

At the same time, the Court clarified that humour itself is not the enemy. It drew a critical distinction between "disabling humour" – which demeans PwDs – and "disability humour", which can raise awareness and celebrate lived realities. It issued a series of progressive directions: the media must portray PwDs not merely as objects of struggle, but as contributors to society, and certification bodies must meaningfully include representatives with disabilities.

These judicial interventions reflect a growing recognition that dignity is non-negotiable. But if we are serious about reform, we must shift focus to the law's implementation.

Rahul Bajaj
is a practising lawyer with expertise in disability rights and IP law, and is co-founder of Mission Accessibility. He wears more hats than he can himself sometimes count
@rahul400

First, when the Court invites the government to strengthen rules on media portrayal of PwDs, the response cannot be to reinvent the wheel. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 already contains a powerful provision – Section 92(a) – which criminalises intentional insult or humiliation of a PwD in any public setting. It prescribes imprisonment between six months and five years. Yet in the 8.5 years since the Act came into force, how many trials have taken place? How many convictions? The answer is zero.

There are two major systemic defects behind this paralysis. One is structural: Section 84 of the Act designates sessions courts as special courts for trying RPwD offences. But under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), crimes punishable up to seven years should ordinarily be tried by Chief Judicial Magistrates, not the highest criminal court in the district. Burdening sessions courts with these cases leads to delays and low prioritisation. The second is operational. Even in states where special courts exist on paper, there is no ecosystem to activate them. Public prosecutors are not designated specifically for RPwD matters. Police lack training to recognise disability-based discrimination as a cognisable crime. The result is a dead-letter provision – powerful in theory, meaningless in practice.

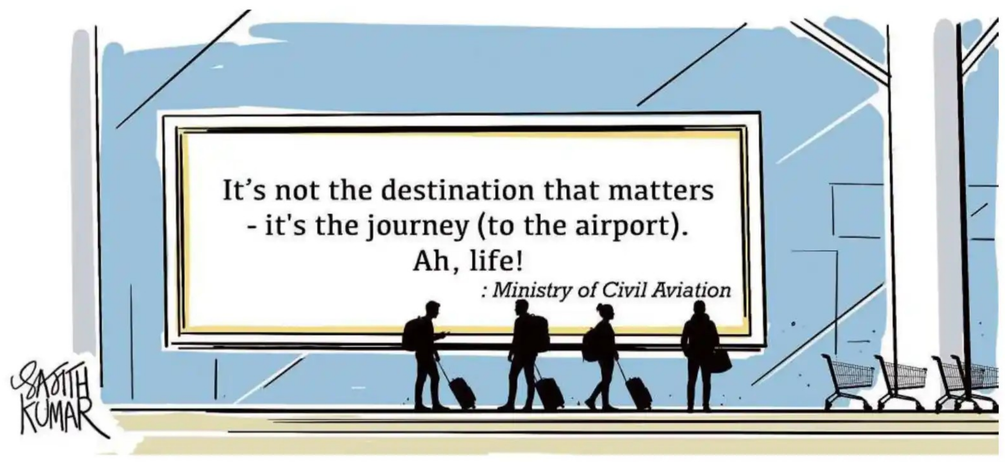
Fixing this must be the starting point, not creating a brand-new legal architecture. Second, our disability rights discourse must not be confined to jokes and satire. Offensive humour is harmful, but not nearly as harmful as losing a job because of blindness, or being denied kindergarten admission due to autism. When such discrimination occurs, PwDs are expected to approach the Chief or state disability commissioners, who can only make recommendations. In other words, rights without remedy.

Despite these structural limitations, many disability commissioners are doing an exemplary job in confronting the ills of an ableist society. To genuinely strengthen the disability rights regime, India must empower its enforcement machinery with real teeth. That means enabling disability commissioners to enforce binding orders, streamlining criminal accountability under Sections 91 and 92, training police and prosecutors, and ensuring cases of discrimination move swiftly and visibly through the system.

Comedy clubs and movie theatres are only some spaces where dignity is tested. Schools, workplaces, housing societies, hospitals, and government offices are where even bigger battles are fought, and too often lost.

Humour can spark awareness. It can liberate. But when it becomes a tool of humiliation, the Constitution has a duty to intervene. The Supreme Court has sent a clear message: dignity is the baseline, not a bonus.

Now, it is time for the law to deliver on that promise.



THE LIVING STREAM

The grace of giving

'A person of understanding gives in charity without wondering, "What do I stand to lose?", without hesitation, without the weight of self-doubt, and without any dampening of enthusiasm.'

"The one who gives quietly is noble. Someone who declares he will give and fulfils it lovingly is commendable. The person who promises to give but fails to do so lacks dignity. So the wise say."

Composed between the 10th and 12th centuries, these moral observations from old Kannada texts show great care about how to be properly charitable. Acts of true generosity arise from firm conviction, not from half-hearted, doubtful, or morally confused minds.

Apart from offering advice on cultivating the ideal charitable self, the sayings above show a keen awareness of the pressure to reciprocate that an act of giving brings on the recipient and the necessity of pre-empting or lessening that moral burden. If in practical affairs a gift unfailingly entails reciprocal obligations for its receivers and establishes hierarchies of dependence, these sayings propose that this need not be an inevitability and affirm the desirability and practicability of an alternate state of affairs. The ideal of charity (*dana*) in India, of course, goes back to ancient times and is indeed of foundational moral importance to Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity and Islam, among other religions.

The old Kannada sayings that I have translated above are taken from the section on *dana* in *Kannada Chennudi* (1989), a compendium of over 2,400 thematically classified *subhashita*s ('wise sayings') compiled over a decade by the renowned Kannada scholar, Dr T V Venkatachala Sastri. Painstakingly selected from over 130 old Kannada texts – including poetry, puranas, and shastras – and presented with concise summaries, the *subhashita*s may have been composed by major or minor figures, and can reflect the independent observations of poets, their literary characters, or scholars. Noting that many such compendia have been compiled in Sanskrit over the centuries, while those based on Kannada sources are few, Dr Sastri hopes that his collection of *subhashita*s will delight readers and prove valuable to both children and the elderly.

Chandan Gowda
The Vidyashilp Professor looks for new ways of looking
@Chandan_Gowda73

The section on dana in *Kannada Chennudi* holds out a variety of insights – often via rich metaphors – around the value of charity. Reminding us that wealth is transitory, a *subhashita* observes: 'Before your wealth fades, just as anointed turmeric loses its colour in the sun, help others with it. Otherwise, it will be like cooking in a pot of wax.'

Several *subhashita*s come down heavily on misers. Here is a powerful one: 'A miser may possess a large fortune but will never know joy. Can a tick that has clung to a cow's udder for years ever know the taste of milk?' Another one compares misers who discourage charity in others to a thorny plant that surrounds a tree on all sides, keeping people from reaching its sweet fruits.

The moral qualities needed in a donor come into focus over and over again. 'Can the wise donor ever speak, like the wicked, of those who come for help: "They survive solely because of us"?'

'He who gives even in anger remains noble, but not those whose love of their possessions makes them distressed at the thought of giving. Even an unripe fruit in a mango tree can be eaten, but can a fully ripened neem fruit be eaten?' *Subhashita*s like these hold out less than absolute standards for charitable conduct and offer sober glimpses of prevailing realities. Counselling donors to be discerning and mindful of charity's abuse, a few of them lament that generosity was bestowed on liars, thieves, the cruel, and the morally unworthy. A few others emphasise the absolute importance of timely charity. Here is a telling instance: 'Giving at the right time is like giving the three worlds themselves; making someone wait or struggle before helping amounts to making a meagre offering.'

Charity does not exclusively concern humans. One of the *subhashita*s asks: 'Watering a fruit tree with love, guarding the seed carefully and sowing it in the field with love, giving charity to the deserving – why hesitate to regard any of these acts as charity?'

THE BIG LENS

Mandir and the mandate

The movement for a temple for Lord Ram at his birthplace, Ayodhya, is somewhat reflective of the 'Ram Kahani', signifying the woes in one's life. The first phase of the over five centuries of this movement ended on December 6, 1992, when karsevaks brought down the domes of the Babri Masjid. The Liberhan Commission took 17 years, 48 extensions, and spent about Rs 8 crore to hold nearly 68 people 'intellectually and ideologically' responsible for the demolition.

It took five prime ministers, 30 years, an inquiry commission, and intense political manoeuvring for the temple to come up during the term of the second Narendra Modi government, formalised with the *pran pratishtha* on January 22, 2024. This could have been a movement by the people supported by the political establishment, but it played out like an extended game of chess, with political parties leveraging the demolition to mobilise and consolidate vote banks. Three decades later, it is interesting to note that the Ayodhya movement has been truly people-led, with no political party being able to translate its outcomes into certain electoral gains.

When the Ayodhya agitation peaked, the then prime minister P V Narasimha Rao tried to politicise the issue by employing two strategies – one, to try solve the issue on apparent consensus, by involving the saints and the seers, and the other, to derive as much political mileage as possible for the Congress by keeping the RSS, VHP, and BJP out of the resolution meetings. Rao was very confident that a government-supported trust consisting of the saints and the seers to oversee the situation would be politically beneficial for the Congress – a move that backfired after several seers objected to the construction of a mosque along with the temple.

The Hindu groups and the smaller but significant Vaishnavite institutions made concerted efforts to wean the Shankaracharyas away from the government and suggested that an independent Dharma Sansad (a parliament of religions) be formed, which would go into the various aspects of the temple.

Seshadri Chari
reads between the lines on big national and international developments from his vantage point in the BJP and the RSS
@seshadrichari

The BJP had kept its options open but did not join the movement directly. The party leadership also wanted a stamp of approval from the Supreme Court over the ownership of the temple land and its precincts. In 1980, the party adopted Gandhian Socialism as its core economic guide and positive secularism as one of the five core principles. The philosophy of Integral Humanism, as propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the ideologue of the erstwhile Bhartiya Jana Sangh (BJS), was missing from the vision, leading to a significant section of the disillusioned cadre moving away from the new party.

In a strategic course correction after winning just two seats in the Lok Sabha, the BJP at the Palampur meeting decided to support the Ayodhya movement spearheaded by the seers, united under the banner of Dharma Sansad, stating that the political support to the anti-temple movement necessitated a counter force that backed the mobilisation for the temple. The subsequent Rath Yatra by Lal Krishna Advani and the huge support it drew among the people did result in the BJP gaining in the Lok Sabha election, but it also went to polls on the planks of economic and social issues.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government led by the BJP under Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee continued to struggle in balancing between the religious groups amid a protracted legal battle. The next United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government under Manmohan Singh went to the extent of writing to the apex court that Ram never existed and that the Valmiki Ramayan and the Ram Setu did not have scientific evidence of existence. The second UPA government was voted out on the issue of corruption and bad governance, with the BJP romping home on the promise of a corruption-free regime built on more governance and less government. It is ironic that while the BJP government under Narendra Modi made the Ram *Mandir* a reality, the party lost in Faizabad, which includes Ayodhya, in 2024.

Beyond politics and social stratifications, the Ayodhya movement has also been about the identity of the nation. India's idea of society, politics, and nationhood has never been theocratic; it is rooted in a unique form of perfect secularism with respect for contrary views and belief systems, going far beyond mere tolerance.

The construction of the temple can signal a fresh start, heralding a new and contemporary interpretation of Ram Rajya. It can also help set an agenda towards that elusive political consensus to ensure inclusive development of the nation.

DHARMA

History in the age of historical fiction

Devdutt Pattanaik
works with gods and demons who churn nectar from the ocean of Indian, Chinese, Islamic, Christian, even secular mythologies

A historian will tell you that the Cholas did not have a navy. The ships that carried their soldiers across the Bay of Bengal were owned by merchants; traders who had a vested interest in keeping sea routes to Sumatra and the Straits of Malacca safe a thousand years ago. The same historian will also tell you that these Chola kings marched up the eastern coast of India, raiding temples in Odisha and Bengal, and carrying away images of Bhairava and Kali to their own shrines in Tamil Nadu. And that this happened roughly around the same time Mahmud of Ghazni was attacking Somnath on the western coast.

But when you turn this into historical fiction, the story changes. Now, the Cholas are portrayed as defenders of India, sailing eastward to protect *Bharatvarsha* from Muslim invaders. They are the heroes of a civilisational war, not temple raiders. In fiction, their ships are no longer merchant vessels; they are a royal navy, a symbol of patriotic pride. The historian deals with facts; the fiction writer deals with emotion. The former is uncomfortable, because it divides; the latter is comforting, because it unites. And that is the tension between history and historical fiction: between fact and feeling.

Before the Second World War, historians saw their work as a way to celebrate the progress of civilisation. They wrote about how humanity moved from darkness to light, superstition to science, tribalism to democracy. The "march of civilisation" was the grand story, whether the historian was Christian, Muslim, or secular. If you were a Muslim historian, the story ended with the triumph of Islam. If you were a Christian historian, it ended with the victory of Christendom. If you were a modern secular historian, it ended with the rise of science and reason. The hero changed, but the structure remained the same – humanity was always marching toward a glorious goal.

Then came the Second World War – the Holocaust, Hiroshima, and colonial collapse. Suddenly, the idea of "progress" seemed hollow. Historians began to see the past not as a story of evolution but as a record of exploitation. Every empire was now seen as an oppressor. Every monument had to be read as evidence of injustice. The discipline of history became a courtroom, with villains and victims, crimes and reparations.

In post-war universities, especially in America, history departments became battlegrounds. Scholars began rewriting national narratives through the lens of race, gender, and class. America, they said, was built on slavery. True. But they forgot to add that slavery existed almost everywhere five hundred years ago – in Africa, in Arabia, in India, and in Europe. They rarely mentioned that African kings themselves sold black slaves to white traders, or that some European powers eventually played a role in abolishing the slave trade.

This selective morality became a habit. Facts were not denied, but they were curated. The historian began to resemble the priest, interpreting reality to fit a moral script. In the name of justice, complexity was sacrificed. And when history becomes moral storytelling, it ceases to be history. It becomes an ideology.

As academic historians lost credibility, a new breed of writers emerged: the historical fictioneers. They claimed to tell the stories historians suppressed. They filled the gaps with imagination, colour, and emotion. But they, too, had an agenda. Today, many of them act as the poets of politicians. They take real events and shape them into convenient myths. Kings become patriots, villains become heroes, and defeats become victories. You see this in novels, films, speeches, and even WhatsApp forwards. History is edited to serve the present.

This phenomenon is not unique to India or America. Across Arabia and Africa, you hear passionate speeches about decolonisation, about reclaiming identity from white imperialists. On the surface, it sounds noble. But underneath, the same narrative is often used to promote religious or political ambitions – the dream of a new Caliphate, for instance. The historian who points this out is accused of betrayal. The activist-fiction writer, meanwhile, becomes a hero. He gives people a moral high.

A true historian has no heroes. He tells us that Mahmud of Ghazni and Rajendra Chola were both ambitious kings, raiders, rulers, and products of their time. That is not judgment, but a reminder that humans everywhere act out of similar motives: power, faith, greed, or glory. But historical fiction has its place, too. It allows us to empathise with the past – to feel what numbers and inscriptions cannot convey. It lets us imagine how it might have felt to be a soldier in Kalinga or a slave on a ship.

History divides; fiction unites. But both can be misused. The wise reader learns to hold both – the historian's scepticism and the storyteller's warmth.

The empathy edge

In a world where work culture often promotes individual achievement over collective well-being, women bring emotional intelligence, and communal intuition, while carrying an unseen burden shaped by lived experiences. Their ways of connecting, caring, and collaborating have the power to transform workplaces into humane yet resilient spaces, and it is time organisations recognise this, writes Aparna Vinod

Nearly two decades ago, I began my career as a bright-eyed 21-year-old in the world of journalism and film, a world that shaped my early understanding of storytelling, purpose, and people. Since then, I've walked through many professional landscapes — corporate meeting rooms, academic corridors, design studios, and now, a manufacturing organisation. Through all these shifts, one question has quietly travelled with me: what is it that women bring to work? And more specifically, what happens when women work together?

Fate, or karma perhaps, answered that question not once but twice. In my current role at a large manufacturing organisation, where I work to advance gender equity on the shop floor, the corporate function I joined turned out to be an all-women team. Another team I collaborate with is also entirely female. And so began a renewed inquiry, now less theoretical and more experiential, into the energies women bring, individually and collectively, into the professional domain.

Juggling heartbreak and ambition

Each woman I work with or have worked with comes from a different walk of life. We were not curated; we are a collage — mothers with toddlers, young women contemplating marriage, middle-aged women reinventing themselves, newlywed professionals navigating the domestic-corporate duality, married women with teenagers. In many ways, the team forms a living timeline of the stages I have moved through and the ones still ahead. In our shared space, I saw myself at 27, juggling heartbreak and ambition. I recognised traces of my 34-year-old self building a work identity, upskilling and parenting my little girl. Women carry timelines within them, not only their own but also the generational echoes of motherhood, silence, rebellion, nurturing, and survival.

At a farewell party for one of our team members, nine women laughed freely, stories spilling into the air. There was no need to perform strength, no pretence of composure. For that moment, we weren't just colleagues, we were companions, witnessing one another as we were.

This emotional bandwidth wasn't a distraction from productivity; it was its foundation. Trust, honest feedback, shared wins, and supported failures — these are not byproducts of work. They are its core.

Trust circles, safe havens

Long before corporate spaces or creative studios, my earliest memories of women together were forged in the heart of the residential colony where I grew up. After sending their husbands off to work, the women would gather in small circles, knitting, mending, or simply catching up. These impromptu gatherings became trust circles, safe havens where stories, grievances and hopes were shared in quiet confidence.

Years later, as a design consultant dabbling in the arts, I found myself drawn back to this memory. I organised an experience workshop, "Tales of Thread," as an intentional recreation of those mornings long ago. Women from varied backgrounds came together not just to learn embroidery, but to stitch their stories of love, memory, and pain into fabric.

In the act of making, layers of experience surfaced, shared with a candour that surprised even the tellers. A rose became a memory of first love, a line carried the weight of endurance, a bud marked hope still forming. One woman spoke of how the smell of jackfruit always returned her to a childhood friendship lost too soon. Another embroidered a tornado to honour her grandmother and shared how safety had vanished with her passing. Around the circle, laughter and grief sat side by side. As we made together, experience became visible, tenderness was shared without hesitation.

There is something profound about women in groups — a communal intuition allows for effortless expression, silent understanding, and a deep, restorative ease.

Whether in travel, at work, or around a kitchen table, I see this quality again and again; a shared wellspring of trust that I think of as an "undercurrent of openness," where experiences are recognised without explanation. In these circles, literal or metaphorical, women draw strength not just from themselves, but from each other.

One of the most life-defining instances was through an unexpected breakfast conversation with a colleague who would later become a friend. At the time, I was in the middle of a difficult life transition, living in a far-off town, uncertain and anxious about the road ahead. In that first conversation, I allowed myself to speak my fears, raw and unpolished, as I felt them. What I received in return was not pity, but presence, a steady calm, and gentle pointers to where I might find the support I needed to heal. The advice mattered, but the exchange of vulnerability mattered more: safety offered, safety returned.

Through the years, I've watched this same undercurrent flow in other workplaces too: a female colleague quietly feeding my child, another leaving small, thoughtful gifts, someone packing an extra box of pasta because she remembered who liked it, a trinket brought back from a trip. These gestures seem ordinary, but they are anything but. They represent the everyday ways women weave belonging, care, and resilience into each other's lives.

The invisible load

The invisible load women carry is not tied to a single workplace or role; it stretches across homes, families, friendships, and communities. I've often seen women arrive at work carrying bags no one else can see, stuffed with grief, anxiety, abuse, dreams secretly nurtured and sometimes deferred, or the weight of care that rarely makes it onto a résumé. And yet, women show up, not merely as employees, but often as caregivers, confidantes, emotionally attuned navigators of complex interpersonal situations. I've witnessed this in small, unguarded moments, a confession over chai, a breath released when someone finally stops hiding her struggle.

I also think of my own mother, a working woman in the 1980s, balancing a home while pursuing her doctoral research at a time when domestic help was rare. My father cooked, cleaned, and cared for us, yet there were still tasks only she could carry. When my sister was born, my mother no longer had her own mother to lean on. Instead, our neighbour, a homemaker, stepped in, opening her home and her arms so the baby could grow up in a place of care that was a home, not a daycare centre. In doing so, she gave my mother the chance to continue her work as a professor and gave me a lesson I still carry: that the strength of women often lies in the invisible webs they weave for one another. These webs don't just hold families together; they create the possibility for women to keep showing up at work, at home, and in the world.

What shifts things is not leniency or concessions, but spaces that acknowledge this unseen load without demanding explanation. In those spaces, identity isn't something women have to earn back; it is already recognised.

A workplace designed with wisdom doesn't need a different rulebook for women. It needs to understand that emotional, relational, and even spiritual safety are not "soft"; they are sensible.

The soft and the fierce

There is a duality in the feminine that is rarely spoken of at work. Between gentleness and grit, women hold a spectrum of energies that cannot be reduced to 'nurturing' or 'emotional.' In these all-women teams, I witnessed a rhythm that wasn't merely efficient; it was embodied. There was space for both hustle and healing, for gentle disagreement, loud arguments and fierce loyalty. Professional ambition didn't cancel out personal vulnerability. Shared experiences — ill children, ailing spouses, struggles with singlehood — enriched rather than disrupted professional understanding and alignment.

In today's performance-obsessed AI-driven world, this way of working feels almost countercultural. Algorithms may optimise many things, but it is human attunement that keeps workplaces humane.

A structural sisterhood

Working with women has taught me something far beyond gender. It has taught me generosity. We've covered for each other during daunting deadlines and heartbreak, celebrated small victories as though they were national awards, and shown up tired, hopeful, hormonal, hilarious — and still made it work. Not despite emotions, but often because of them.

This is not to say all-women teams are without challenges. We've had our conflicts, mismatched communication styles, and emotionally charged moments that needed careful navigation. But these experiences cemented something in me: sisterhood at work is not sentimental. It is a structural alternative to the hyper-individualistic, burnout-prone cultures around us.

So, what would it mean to design workspaces (and technologies) that are attuned to how women experience safety and success? We need honest conversations. Not just about sexual harassment or pay equity (important as those are), but about belonging, microaggressions, the unpaid mental labour, the joy of mutual care, and the healing power of laughter.

Reclaiming communing

As we reflect on what women bring to work, it is essential to recognise communing as a throughline, a way of building trust, connection, and belonging that stretches across generations.

Across the roles women occupy, within homes, at school gates, and in families, there thrives a tradition of mutual support, wisdom-sharing, and protective care. In these spaces, women instinctively build trust circles that last across generations. I think of this as communing, not a performance of support, but a practice of standing with, sharing in, and rising together, a lived fabric of connecting that has always been part of women's ways of being.

Yet, in today's hyper-individualistic work culture, this natural inclination toward community is often misunderstood, even seen as a threat. The very qualities that fortify families, friendships, and grassroots communities are, in some spaces, quietly discouraged or boxed up under the banner of "soft skills." Employees are nudged toward competition rather than collaboration. This must shift.

If workplaces want to truly tap into the strengths women bring, they must recognise communing as an asset, not an anomaly. They must nurture the intuitive, creative, relational capacities women carry and weave them into daily work.

Workplaces that see the whole person see more clearly. Communing is not an accessory to culture; it is the architecture of the future workplace. When we design with it, we don't just build jobs, we build places where people belong, grow, and thrive. Intentional communing allows intergenerational wisdom to flow across ages, hierarchies, and backgrounds. It appears in circles of trust, in quiet ease, in the unspoken ways women lift one another without keeping score.

And when we get this right, we all rise. Together.

The author is a Bengaluru-based transdisciplinary designer, academic and writer. Views are personal.

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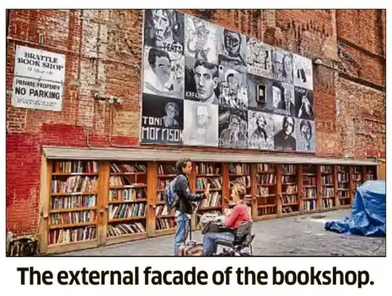
MIXED BAG

'Mixed Bag' is your Sunday potpourri — an assortment of snappy articles, engaging ideas and snackable nibbles about this and that, from here and there. Dip in!

A bookshop that's still turning the pages

A historic bookshop in a historic city! That's Brattle Book Shop in Boston, for you. Today situated on West Street, near Boston Common, itself a historic park in the city, the shop celebrates its 200th anniversary in 2025 (but "We don't have any special plans for the anniversary", Joyce, who works there, replies immediately to my e-mailed query). The bookshop has gone through more than 40 presidents as it was born in the year that John Quincy Adams became the sixth president of the US, while Donald Trump is the 47th!

Brattle Book Shop began life in 1825 in the Cornhill area of Boston. In 1949, when it was facing closure, George Gloss, father of the current owner, Kenneth Gloss, bought it from a certain Colesworthy and revived it. The bookshop moved locations seven



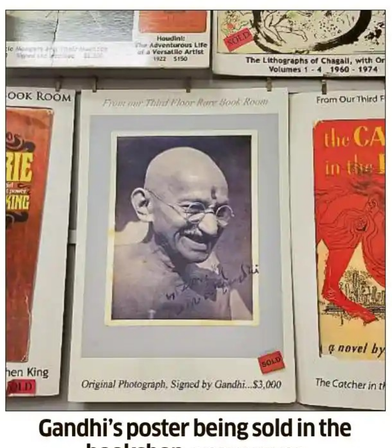
The external facade of the bookshop. PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA

times (!) over the next 20 years until it was ensconced in its present location. A fire in 1980 led to its entire stock being destroyed, but like a phoenix, the shop rose from the ashes.

The bookshop has two parts — one on the inside, and the other on the outside. The outside part consists of an empty lot adjacent to the main shop. This lot was created when the fire destroyed the building adjacent to the store. The more interesting exhibits are the ones on the outside, but they need a devoted combination of commitment and serendipity to locate a book. And, oh, some foolhardiness, given that the temperature in Boston when I visited it was six degrees celsius. But since the books outside were less expensive, I was willing to fight the cold.

The bookshop itself is over three floors, with the uppermost floor containing the rare books. Every conceivable subject seems to have been covered among the 200,000+ books — the usual suspects such as Shakespeare, Sciences, Anthropology, to lesser-known ones such as railroads, fire-engines and so on (and all, I must admit, at very reasonable prices). I looked specifically for the section on India and was not disappointed (the Ramayana of Valmiki: three volumes; the intriguingly titled Russia against India, authored by Archibald R Colquhoun and others).

But it's the tchotchkes that really grab you. Hanging up on the walls are all sorts of ephemera — a large autographed photograph of M K Gandhi



Gandhi's poster being sold in the bookshop. PIC BY AUTHOR

— selling at $3000 only! I can't claim to have even seriously considered acquiring it with my not-deep-enough pockets, but the sticker on it, which informed me that it had already been sold, decided it for sure. For obvious reasons, the American artefacts were higher-priced. For a 200-year-old bookshop, Brattle Book Shop has kept itself contemporary. Kenneth hosts a podcast titled Brattlecast: there have been 204 episodes so far, one every two weeks for the past four years — almost all related to the mouth-watering topic of books. The outdoor lot of the bookshop itself also appeared in a scene in the recent Hollywood movie, 'The Holdovers'.

As I was leaving the shop, I noted a whiteboard with the words "What book makes you feel optimistic?" The board was filled with various titles: The Bible, Quran, The Odyssey, Narnia, How To Train Your Dragon, with someone surreptitiously slipping in "I love Annika"! Had there been space on the board (and some quick thinking on my part), I would have written the title of the book that I had just come by — field and wildlife biologist George Schaller's ode to the Himalayas, Stones of Silence. After all, one's favourite book is the one that has just been acquired, isn't it?

SANJAY A PAI

FEEDBACK
Like this story? Write to us at **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

Szalay's Booker-winner, Flesh, is a raw, riveting exploration of desire, numbness and a gripping study of a man driven by the body, not the mind, writes Sudhirendar Sharma

ANATOMY of survival

The novel charts a man constantly at odds with himself, estranged both by circumstances and his inability to articulate what he wants.

FLESH
David Szalay
Penguin,
pp 368,
Rs 799

Flesh is a rags-to-riches story about a young Hungarian named István. Without much time spent interrogating his own motives or desires, he moves through life impulsively, drifting across a series of odd jobs and uncertain choices. Eventually, this restless path deposits him in London, married into a wealthy household, seemingly cushioned by comfort. The novel also tracks the unsettling liaison between a virginal 15-year-old István and a married 42-year-old woman, a relationship that ends in a violent confrontation with her husband, landing him first in juvenile detention and then in military service. The experiences that follow shape his sense of resilience, or perhaps more accurately, his ability to endure without understanding.

To understand the novel's peculiar force, it helps to know David Szalay's own literary temperament. He is known for his restrained realist fiction with a distinctly international sensibility. His breakthrough came with All That Man Is, shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2016, although he had already published six books by then. Despite the Booker attention, Szalay has always remained slightly outside the mainstream. His subjects seem plain — sex, mortality, money, work — but he enlarges them through a prose style that reads "quietly monumental," making the ordinary feel almost perilously alive.

In Flesh, the preoccupation is István's pliability; his moral, emotional and psychological looseness. The novel hints at his naivety, but also at a deeper estrangement from his own bizarre urges. István seems unsure whether his behaviour signals a psychological disorder, a current of erotic and material desire beyond his control, or simply a life lived without reflection. As the title suggests, he exists in his body more than in his mind. His flesh bears scars; it moves, reacts, absorbs, yet rarely demands. Flesh becomes a narrative of motion rather than emotion, and Szalay himself has acknowledged the difficulty of sustaining such a gaze — the tension between depicting movement and withholding feeling.

The novel charts a man constantly at odds with himself, estranged both by circumstances and his inability to articulate what he wants. Later in life, he works in private security and eventually becomes a chauffeur for an elite London family. Through a twist of proximity and desire, he enters into an affair with the young wife in the household and eventually marries her. His step-son, in turn, demands a life that he believes he must control. Life comes full circle, though not with wisdom, rather, with a dull recognition of repetition.

Flesh is not an easy read, but it is gripping. It tests the reader's patience in places, yet rewards it with a strange, quiet intensity. This is a book about how men are judged — for their loneliness, their muteness, and their masculinity — and about how a person can navigate seismic events without ever appearing to feel them. The prose is stripped down, almost clinical, refusing access to István's interiority. Neither he nor the narrator tells us what he feels, even when events in his life are momentous. The novel's gaze remains fixed at the level of the body: what it does, what it endures, how it reacts in the absence of introspection.

The story also exposes a broader literary tension between expression and access: who gets seen, who gets interpreted, who remains opaque. The Booker Prize, often called the "leading literary award," undeniably shapes careers through its longlists and shortlists. Yet questions about diversity, readability and cultural gatekeeping persist. It also raises the pressing contemporary question: Does the award matter to a world with shrinking attention spans and relentless scrolling? Flesh sits in this tension; a book that demands slowing down, even as readers speed up.

Still, the novel exerts a pull that explains why readers return to it. It lingers in the psychological and social undertones of István's life. Szalay emphasises that István exists in a body, but lacks the language to express longing or fear. Interestingly, István seems most energised during his time in the military. When asked how it felt to shoot a gun and kill, he says simply, "It's okay." The flatness of the answer raises its own questions: does the battlefield clarify death, or does it numb him further?

One could argue that the novel captures the long shadow of early trauma and the estrangement from self that follows. The narrative is most analytically vivid when it comes to sex, tracking transgression with nearly forensic calm. During his affair with his employer's wife, István notes the heightened sense of wrongdoing, even though he does not find her particularly attractive. Again, Szalay underscores István's inability to feel, or perhaps, his inability to know what feeling should look like.

By the end, readers may find themselves unexpectedly moved by István, despite his blankness, his passivity, his troubling decisions. Flesh remains deeply compelling, a quiet novel with an oddly magnetic protagonist, rendered through Szalay's disciplined, almost disconcerting realism. It is a novel about the numbing strangeness of being alive, and how a life can unfold entirely in the flesh when the mind remains elusive.

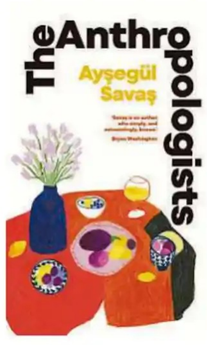
Flesh confirms Szalay as a restless, probing writer whose work continues to challenge the limits of realist fiction. It is absolutely worth the time, not because it is obvious or comforting, but because it insists on a truth we rarely admit: sometimes we live without knowing why, and the body keeps going long after the mind has checked out.

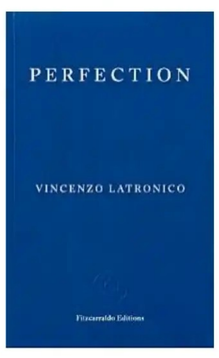
PIQUED

Flickering realities behind a mirage

Nirica Srinivasan writes about two recent books that offer differing perspectives on our social media-obsessed, capitalism-driven lives in the 21st century

Imagine: a couple lives in a foreign city. Their jobs are irregular — perhaps they work in the creative field, or in a nonprofit. They are sometimes happy, or they think that they should be. They have a sense that their life could be better; they're striving towards a particular way of living. Around them, the 21st century moves and shifts, and extends its hold on them — in the form of late-stage capitalism, gentrification, and social media. This broad-strokes description is the plot of not one but two recent novels: Ay egül Sava 's The Anthropologists, and Vincenzo Latronico's Perfection (translated from Italian by Sophie Hughes). But if they're approaching a similar idea —an existential question about what constitutes a "real" life in today's world — they're approaching it from completely different directions.





In **The Anthropologists**, a couple is looking for a home, attempting to put down roots. Our first-person narrator, Asya, is a documentary filmmaker, living with her husband, Manu, in a city neither of them was born in. Uprooted from a family tradition, they must build their history from scratch — inventing daily rituals and customs, navigating life as if walking a city without a map. In vignettes, we see the mundanities of their everyday life: the joy, the failures, the ordinariness and wonder, the search for meaning in everyday minutiae. But there's a sense that they're attempting to strive towards something, even if that something is not yet clear to Asya. She reflects on a lecture from her anthropology classes, a way to look at life anew: "Imagine an anthropologist observing the everyday routine with which we had set up our lives. They might be arbitrary or essential, but they were rules to a game nonetheless."

The narrative of Perfection, in some ways, takes the form of Asya's nameless anthropologist — a third-person narrator dissecting the rituals of daily life, laying them bare for the reader to see. But while The Anthropologists invites us to join Asya as she figures out a way to live, **Perfection**'s anthropological gaze serves to satirise how its protagonists, Anna and Tom, navigate contemporary life. Anna and Tom are "creative professionals" who increasingly find the creativity of their jobs overtaken by necessity—"during walks in the woods, they dreamed of the Photoshop toolbars floating in front of them, inviting them to clone-stamp a pine forest or stream."

Like Asya and Manu, they're in a foreign city, Berlin, trying to set down roots. But in some ways, Anna and Tom know the something they're striving for — an elusive "perfection," a life that announces itself as being desirable in every way: the house they live in, the activities they engage in, the things they own. Perfection is a sharp (and sharply funny) view of a couple desperate for authenticity, but who find themselves chasing a mirage. But is a life that looks perfect actually perfect? Perfection opens with a description of an apartment, complete with monstera plants throwing shadows on the wall, a limited-edition record of Radiohead's In Rainbows, mason jars of spices, and hardwood floors. Proof of perfection is something external and displayable: what do your things say about you? Asya and Manu aren't immune either: Asya replaces her framed posters with paintings, thinking, "We liked the paintings, yes, but we also liked what they might mean about us — people with real paintings on their walls." Perfection reminds us of the link between individuality and consumerism: "Individuality manifested itself as a set of visual differences, immediately decodable and in constant need of updating." Who decides what a "real life" looks like?

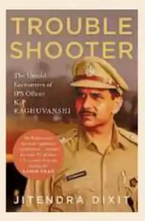
Through The Anthropologists, Asya reflects on her image of an ideal life, and wonders where that image comes from. "All this time, we were waiting," she says, for the announcement of "life itself." But she realises that the work of being alive is stranger, more mundane, and only as meaningful as we make it. Anna and Tom are much less lucky, motivated by what they're told a perfect life should look and feel like. If Perfection offers us a view of what cultural homogeneity does to our lives in today's world, The Anthropologists offers us a way to break out of it.

Piqued *is a monthly column in which the staff of Champaca Bookstore bring us unheard voices and stories from their shelves. The reviewer is a writer and illustrator.*

MOODBOARD

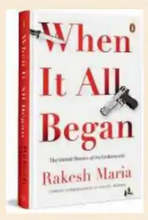
A few recent releases have seen decorated police officers turn storytellers, recounting gritty cases and personal battles. Here are three you can check out:

Troubleshooter by Jitendra Dixit (Pan/2025):



Over the course of his 35-year-long stint in the Indian Police Service, Krishipal 'KP' Raghuvanshi came to be known as the quintessential 'Troubleshooter'. He founded the elite C-60 unit to combat Naxalism; led the creation of the Special Task Force (STF) to implement the Srikrishna Commission Report; set up the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Mumbai and dealt with the horrific 26/11 terror attacks. This is his story.

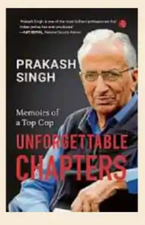
When It All Began by Rakesh Maria (Vintage/2025):



In the 1980s, the streets of Dongri, Pydhonie, Nagpada, Agripada and Byculla witnessed some of the bloodiest gang wars and reigns of terror India had ever seen. These neighbourhoods became the battlegrounds of crime. But when did it all begin? It all goes back to the 1930s, when Abdul Karim Sher Khan Pathan, aka Karim Lala, considered one of the first feared dons of Bombay, arrived in the city. Rakesh Maria, who led some of India's most high-profile investigations, reflects on this tumultuous history.

Unforgettable Chapters by Prakash Singh (Rupa/2025):

From the troubled terrains of Nagaland to the landscapes of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir, this book unveils the relentless battles against insurgency and the delicate dance between law enforcement and political interests. Top cop Prakash Singh recounts trans-border operations and the struggle to secure the nation's borders against threats.



Mood Board *is a column that presents thematic lists of books on hot-button topics.*

Beyond the many constraints of fiction

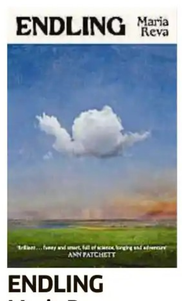
The Booker-longlisted debut novel, set just before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, shows how even when disaster looms, life will find a way to go on, writes Saudha Kasim

The author poignantly captures the protagonist's grief and anger at the brutality of war. Seen here are Ukrainian soldiers getting ready to repel an attack by Russian forces. (AFP FILE PIC)

Loss runs through the pages of Maria Reva's debut novel, Endling, coursing through until, what has been till then a conventional story, cracks open, and her characters are flung out of the constraints of fiction and into something more sublime.

Long-listed for the Booker this year, Endling begins just before the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The main character is Yeva, a scientist who is trying to propagate endangered snail species around the country in her specially fitted-out mobile lab.

That lab is dedicated to helping the gastropod survive — and after years of relying on government and NGO grants that had become increasingly scarce, a serendipitous encounter at a gas station with a woman who organises "romance tours" for lovesick bachelors looking for beautiful wives in Ukraine becomes an unlikely source of funding for Yeva. It turns out to be a job like any other.



ENDLING
Maria Reva
Hachette, pp 352,
Rs 799

Why snails, though? As Reva describes it in one of many evocative passages in the book, they are more than just something that is "A crunch under the boot. A speck to flick off a lettuce leaf." They "weren't pandas — those oversize bumbling toddlers that sucked up national conservation budgets — or any of the other charismatic megafauna, like orcas or gorillas." But Yeva doesn't love them because of the gastropod's role as "barometers of a biome's health". It is because: "She could spend hours watching them in their terrariums, hours while her own mind slowed, slowed, emptied."

Yeva is also harbouring another secret, one she can't quite communicate to her mother, who'd rather see her married off: she's asexual, with zero interest in settling down in a conventional marriage and procreating. (The irony of Yeva's desperate attempts to breed endangered snails, especially Lefty, whose shell spirals leftwards — a rarity among gastropods, while she ignores her own family's demands might have been a bit too on the nose in the hands of a less talented author, but Reva doesn't belabour the point.)

Five years into working on the romance tours while carrying out her conservation activities, Yeva experiences a catastrophic loss of the snails she'd been rescuing, almost all of them the last of their species, the endlings. It is then, as she contemplates ending it all, that she encounters another member of the romance tour, Nastia and her sister Sol, who works as an interpreter slash chaperone on dates. Nastia wants Yeva's help to kidnap a group of foreign tourists, the bachelors, in a harebrained attempt at luring her mother, Iolanta, out of wherever she's been hiding.

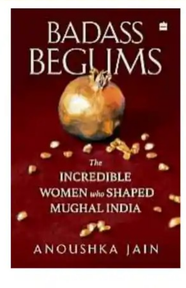
A left spiralling snail, a spiralling and suicidal biologist, an abandoned daughter desperately looking for her mother, and thirteen lovelorn men who'd been hoping to find the perfect, feminine wife in a country about to be invaded by its powerful neighbour: a lot is going on in Endling. Tragicomic would be the perfect description for what ensues as this motley crew careens around a country being bombed by the Russians. But that description pales when that sudden flip halfway through the book happens — that's Reva's grief and anger at seeing her ancestral homeland subject to war and violence, and her attempt at shaking the complacency out of the reader. War, bloody and brutal, cannot be part of ordinary fiction. Hence, the metafictional turn and the reader gets Reva's fictional alter-ego, herself attempting to write a novel about a biologist trying to save snails and the ludicrousness of it, the obsession with something so small against the backdrop of global geopolitics, the vast difference in scale, is what tilts this book off its axis and why it's been getting the acclaim it has (and deserves).

It would have been easy for Reva to turn the kidnapped bachelors into figures of fun, but she gives each of these lonely men searching for connection backstories and wounds that make them deeply human.

As for the snail that could be the saviour of his species? Let's say the encounter between two gastropods that Reva describes towards the end perfectly encapsulates her triumph as a writer here: it's poetic, it stirs the human reader's heart, and it shows how, even when disaster looms, and hope has all but vanished, life will find a way to go on.

READ OF THE WEEK

History rarely shines a light on the formidable Mughal begums who boldly navigated the imperial courts, brokered powerful deals, reshaped Delhi's skyline, created private spaces for women, fought battles and resisted patriarchy — all from their place behind the purdah. In Badass Begums, Anoushka Jain introduces you to 10 such Mughal-era women whose lives rippled with ambition, romance, intrigue and fierce resilience. Jahanara Begum, Shah Jahan's favourite daughter who designed Chandni Chowk and her sister, the firebrand Roshanara Begum, who schemed with Aurangzeb to take over her father's empire; the invincible Begum Samru, a tawaif-turned-ruler, who led her own army into battles; Maham Anga and Mubarak Begum, whose counsel rivalled that of chief ministers, and the resolute Qudsia Begum who built riverfront gardens only to see them battered by rebellions — these and other stories come alive in a riveting narrative and walking tour maps of the places they lived in or curated. Based on rigorous research and written with warmth, Badass Begums is an eye-opening journey through the breathtaking legacies still hidden in the by-lanes of Delhi. Anoushka Jain is a historian, author and founder of Enroute Indian History, a women-led initiative that brings the past alive through heritage walks, storytelling and research.



For generations, women have been conditioned to suppress behaviour; girls are told to sit properly or not make noise. As a result, autistic traits in girls are often masked or internalised, observes Tanisha Saxena

Autism's INVISIBLE HALF

Women are often invisible in the autism story.

At 22, Aanya was called anxious, depressed — even dramatic. Autism was never mentioned. She had learned to make eye contact, memorise small talk, and disappear in plain sight. By the time she was diagnosed at 28, she had cycled through a carousel of misdiagnoses — none of them quite fitting.

Her story is not rare. It's routine. For decades, autism has been cast in the image of boys — often obsessed with trains or maths, often easy to spot. Girls, who tend to be more verbal, more socially attuned, and more adept at masking, were missed. Misdiagnosed. Mislabelled. And so, the science followed the visibility. From psychiatrist and physician Leo Kanner's foundational studies to modern diagnostic tools, autism's definition has been shaped by those who stood out — not those who struggled quietly.

A spectrum built for boys

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neuro-developmental condition characterised by differences in communication, social interaction, and behaviour. As a spectrum, it manifests in a range of ways, with varying degrees of intensity. Yet for years, the prevailing understanding — and diagnostic approach — has skewed male.

Recent studies show that girls, on average, are diagnosed with autism between 1.5 and 2 years later than boys. While many boys are identified between the ages of 3 and 4, girls often aren't diagnosed until age 6 — or even later.

"Research points to two primary factors," explains Dr Himani Narula Khanna, developmental-behavioural paediatrician and adolescent mental health expert, and co-founder of a neurotherapy centre for uniquely abled children. "First, many girls on the autism spectrum tend to be more verbal and exhibit stronger social mimicry skills than boys. As a result, their behaviours often go unnoticed. Second, these differences frequently lead to mislabeling — girls are commonly diagnosed with anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, or even eating disorders instead."

Two years ago, in a webinar hosted by the Autism Research Institute, autistic researcher and author Hannah Belcher noted that autistic women are often diagnosed only after a series of psychiatric conditions — such as depression, anxiety, or borderline personality disorder — have been ruled out.

Of particular concern is the diagnostic overlap between autism and Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), sometimes called emotional regulation disorder. Belcher cited one study in which 15 per cent of patients at a BPD clinic were found to meet the criteria for autism.

Given BPD's higher prevalence in women, this symptomatic overlap has only deepened the bias — leaving many autistic women misdiagnosed, misunderstood, and without access to the services or validation they need.

Wrong questions, wrong tools

One of the most widely used adult screening tools for autism is the Autism-Spectrum Quotient, or AQ — a 50-question test designed to identify patterns in thinking, social interaction, and perception.

But like much of the diagnostic landscape, the AQ was created with boys in mind. Developed in 2001 by psychologist Simon Baron-Cohen and his team, the AQ focused on traits commonly observed in autistic men and boys: an intense focus on systems, challenges with social cues, a preference for routine. These patterns, in turn, became the standard. The problem? Autism doesn't always look the same in women.

"Traditional diagnostic criteria often fail to capture the nuanced ways autism can present in girls — particularly those who are cognitively able and verbally proficient," says Dr Khanna. "These traits can mask underlying challenges, leading to under-diagnosis."

Older studies suggested a male-to-female autism ratio of 4:1. But newer research paints a different picture —one that may be closer to 3:1, or even 2:1 among individuals without intellectual disabilities. That gap points to more than statistics. It reflects decades of missed stories, overlooked symptoms, and silent struggles. Autism in girls often flies under the radar — but it was never absent. It was merely hiding in plain sight.

"Newer tools like ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule), M-CHAT, and STAT are there to diagnose ASD. A few more, which are suggested by the National Autistic Society — like ASQ and EQ (Empathy Quotient) — help in better diagnosis of ASD in girls," says Dr Aparna Jha, obstetrician-gynaecologist at a leading children's hospital in Bengaluru.

Beyond the checklist

For generations, women have been conditioned to suppress behaviour —"Sit properly," "Don't make noise," "Don't draw attention." As a result, autistic traits in girls are often masked or internalised. The experience doesn't vanish; it morphs — into anxiety, depression, or burnout.

Devangana Mishra, CEO and Founder of a Mumbai-based nonprofit working to empower students on the autism spectrum, explains, "Women on the spectrum often navigate the world differently: they may prefer solitude, communicate atypically, experience heightened sensory sensitivity, and harbour intense interests. But most crucially, they mask. They mimic social cues to blend in, often at great psychological cost. What looks like success may hide profound exhaustion."

And when women say, "This light is too bright," "This fabric is unbearable"— they're often dismissed. Their sensory experiences are minimised, their instincts doubted.

She adds, "Celebrities and public figures on the spectrum bring visibility, but they also risk reinforcing narrow stereotypes. The challenge is broader: how do we create a world where autistic women can live not as poster children for a diagnosis, but as complex, thriving individuals?"

It's important that education, policy, and healthcare needs to be reimagined — not just for inclusion, but for transformation. "Around 10 to 15 per cent of women/girls misdiagnosed with depression, anxiety, and other mental issues are being diagnosed with ASD in adulthood. Better awareness, early approach, more acceptability, and better tools are the key factors for the diagnosis of ASD in females and recovery," says Dr Jha.

In India, a quiet push for autism screening

In spite of a lack of national policy, India is witnessing a quiet yet significant shift in how autism is being identified in its schools. Recent initiatives reveal a growing recognition of neuro-developmental disorders in classrooms — though often fragmented, underfunded, and region-specific. A 2024 workshop by the Young Indians (Yi) Guwahati chapter (according to a report in the *Indian Journal of Paediatrics)* brought together teachers and psychologists to build capacity for early detection of ASD.

Despite 91.2 per cent of educators claiming awareness of autism, only a third had received any structured training. In Kolkata, a school-based study screened 11,849 children aged 3 to 8 using validated diagnostic tools. The study identified six undiagnosed children on the spectrum, yielding a prevalence estimate of 0.23 per cent. The findings, published by *Spectrum News*, suggest that without structured screenings, many cases remain invisible— particularly in low-resource settings.

Meanwhile, researchers from a private deemed university in India have rolled out an educator-focused autism awareness programme across several Indian schools. Presented at INSAR 2024, the initiative trains teachers to observe signs of autism and refer students for diagnosis, while incorporating action research to evaluate effectiveness.

Many young Indian women, who were diagnosed in their late twenties or early thirties, are now speaking out about their neurodivergence on social media platforms.

"Their public coming out is not just personal catharsis — it's a cultural reckoning. In a society that often conflates femininity with emotional fluency and social grace, their stories challenge the invisibility of autism in Indian women and expose the high cost of camouflage," concludes obstetrician-gynaecologist Dr Jha.

Travel

Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula is where the rainforest meets the Pacific coast. Venkates Swaminathan visits the biodiverse habitat for a yoga retreat but it's the sounds and sights of the region that floor him

Call of THE WILD

The adventure in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula begins even before you arrive. From the San José international airport, you wander down the street to a modest domestic terminal. There, you board a tiny seven-seater plane, where the pilot and co-pilot — who also happen to be the loaders, unloaders, and flight attendants — laugh and flirt with each other as the plane cruises on autopilot over misty mountains and thick clouds. Who, you wonder, is flying the plane?

As you descend toward Puerto Jiménez, you spot the runway: a narrow strip of tarmac wedged between the village and, fittingly, but also unsettlingly enough, a cemetery.

Calling it an airport feels generous; it's just a fence, a gate, and a small path leading straight into town. From there, a taxi picks you up, pausing at the only grocery store you'll see for the next week, before you set off toward the jungle and the sea, leaving paved roads and supermarkets behind.

Pacific's southern end

The Osa Peninsula sits at the southern end of Costa Rica's Pacific coast, wrapped around the appropriately named Golfo Dulce — the Sweet Gulf. This sheltered body of water, fringed by tropical rainforest, feels like a secret kept by the land. Midway through the week, on a boat trip across its calm waters, we found a pod of dolphins that decided, to our delight, to dance and swim alongside us, leading the bow of the boat and performing a choreographed private show.

On one side of the Osa lies Corcovado National Park, a remote, fiercely protected stretch of rainforest that the *National Geographic* once called the most biologically intense place on earth. We stayed at the far end near Cabo Matapalo, where beaches spill out in every direction—from the gentle, glassy waters of Playa Dulce to the thundering surf at Playa Matapalo, home to one of the world's most renowned surf breaks. Wherever you are in the Osa, the rainforest is your companion: crickets sing you to sleep at night, and you wake to the haunting roars of howler monkeys. You'd never guess from the eerie roars that howlers are the gentlest of monkeys; they sound like an alien invasion. They are just the beginning. The long-tailed spider monkeys are the largest species of monkey on the Osa, and you'll see them swinging from tree to tree like trapeze artists.

The smaller, white-faced capuchins are fearless and can be aggressive. They may show up on your porch, so keep your food hidden. Whether you are chasing adventure or seeking a quiet retreat from the speed of everyday life, you'll find it here, tucked between jungle and sea.

Waves crashing at Playa Matapalo. (PHOTO BY AUTHOR)

A scarlet macaw.

Yoga at the Osa

Indeed, people come to the Osa for many reasons. I was there for a yoga retreat, and it's hard to explain the joy of practising every morning while looking out over the Pacific. With each breath, you feel a connection to the timeless vastness of the universe. Sometimes, our practice was observed by curious spider monkeys swinging in the trees overhead and accompanied by the sounds of toucans, macaws, and a host of other birds.

My personal highlight, though, came off the mat. I faced a lifelong fear of heights on a jungle hike led by a young guide named Talon. At just 20 years old, Talon had grown up deep in the forests of Costa Rica, left briefly for high school in the United States, and returned home to help his father's business, guiding terrified tourists like me through the wild. He hiked barefoot, pointing out frogs and birds as he led us along a river and through the jungle. At one point, he told us we had to walk up a waterfall, and as insane as it seems, we scrambled up to continue our trek to a giant tree that towered above the canopy. There, with Talon belaying us by hand, each of us climbed up the branches to a spot seven stories high, stuck our heads into a hollow to glimpse a nest of bats, then stood with arms outstretched in the treetops—before jumping into the air and floating gently back down. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and maybe the only place on earth wild and alive enough to make me believe I could do it. Each person finds their own magic here. Some come to surf the waves, some to hike the rainforests, and others to write, read, or simply breathe differently for a while.

Tiny hotels and eco-resorts are scattered along the coast, tucked inside the forest, each accessible only by dirt roads—most of which demand a sturdy four-wheel-drive vehicle and a certain spirit of adventure. Wherever you stay, you'll find yourself living side-by-side with the jungle. Walking along the shaded paths, you'll want to watch where you step: you might spot a green-and-black poison dart frog hidden among the leaves or find a curious land crab taking up residence in your shoes. (Tip: always bring your shoes inside at night—and check them before putting them on!)

Long-tailed spider monkey.

Sounds of nature

Step outside at dawn, and you'll wake to a chorus of birdsong: the sweet, fluty call of toucans, the raucous shriek of scarlet macaws, and dozens of others you'll never quite manage to name (tip: download Cornell University's Merlin app on your phone, and you'll be able to identify birdcalls!).

At first, the rainforest sounds — the ceaseless hum of crickets and the deep-throated calls of howler monkeys — might not seem peaceful. But after a single night, they will wrap around you like a warm, living blanket. Unlike city noise — the blare of sirens and the rush of traffic — the sounds of the Osa root you to the earth beneath your feet, and gently, almost without noticing, you begin to breathe with the rhythm of the forest.

After a week in the Osa, when you head back, even Puerto Jiménez — the sleepy village you first arrived in — will feel overwhelming. Cars rumble down the street. The supermarket hums with voices and footsteps. You'll walk into the tiny building that serves as the airport, hand over your bag at the counter, and quietly wonder why you're leaving at all.

As you stand by the cemetery, reading the worn gravestones of those who called this magical place home, you will feel the joy of an experience that transforms, combined with the sorrow in leaving a place behind where every sunrise is magic.

A stunning sunrise over a lagoon and the Pacific at Corcovado National Park.

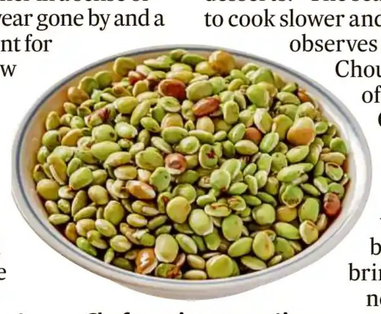
Warming up to WINTER

Indian chefs are looking beyond carrot halwa, and reimagining staples such as pumpkin, guava, peas, and avarekai to make flavourful curries and desserts, writes Deepa Natarajan Lobo

With crisp blue skies, pillowy clouds, misty mornings, warm afternoons, and a sharp chill in the air; the winters usher in a sense of gratitude for the year gone by and a flurry of excitement for the Christmas-New Year season to come. It's also the time when amidst all the festivities in the air, one is nudged to slow down, and spend quality time with family and friends with a cup of hot cocoa in hand, which becomes all the more comforting with an additional whiff of red carrots being caramelised into a halwa!

But Indian winters today offer flavours far richer than the season's beloved gajar ka halwa alone. Indian chefs now are reimagining traditional winter staples such as tender green peas, fresh leafy greens, cauliflower, radish, guava, pumpkin, custard apples, oranges, strawberries, fenugreek, and root vegetables to make hearty soups, flavourful curries and inventive desserts. "The season invites you to cook slower and eat slower," observes Chef Priyank Chouhan, Director of Culinary and Operations at the Pan Asian restaurant Shiro. "Root vegetables like beets and carrots bring natural sweetness and nourishment, while leafy greens such as kale and spinach add minerals and antioxidants. Brussels sprouts, mushrooms, and cauliflower round out the season with fibre and immune-boosting nutrients."

Pumpkin soup is food for the soul.

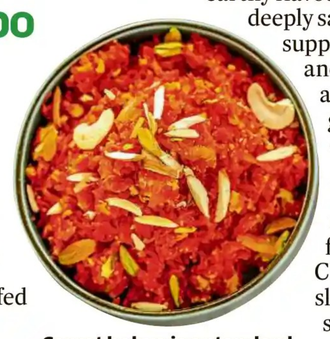


Chefs are incorporating Karnataka's avarekalu into risottos and curries.

Avarekai risotto and sagu

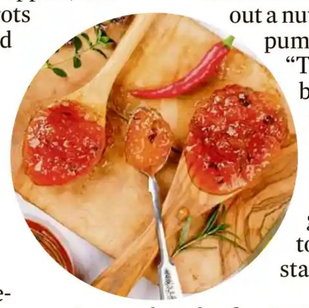
For Altamsh Patel, Director of Culinary, Hilton Mumbai International Airport, sarson or mustard greens takes the centre-stage during winters. "Its warmth and earthiness make saag an essential part of every wedding menu in our banquets."

Some of the other winter ingredients he enjoys cooking with are strawberries, groundnuts and avarekalu or avarekai. "We use strawberries extensively in artisanal desserts, and seasonal specials across the restaurants while fresh groundnuts add richness and texture to our thalis, curries, and winter chutneys. Avarekai, with its creamy sweetness, features in everything from traditional sagu to modern risottos and stuffed breads."



Carrot halwa is a standard winter dessert.

Riwash Sharma, Executive Chef, Firewater Neo Bar & Kitchen, loves to dish out interesting cross-cultural creations such as red carrot–guava chutney with apple crisp, and gajar ka paratha with spiced fruity compote. "I also love tossing up a winter harvest salad — roasted pumpkin, crisp apples, and julienned red carrots tossed with toasted pumpkin seeds and a lemon-tahini dressing. It's a dish that bridges Indian and Mediterranean sensibilities with ease," he mentions.



A spread made of chilli, apples and herbs is a flavour bomb.

At the Omakase-style Crackle Kitchen, Chef Vivek Salunkhe, Partner & Head Chef, too loves to fuse the East and the West with one of his flavourful compositions which includes the traditional, gut-loving beetroot and mustard kanji.

The tangy, fermented, probiotic Rajasthani drink — served in a delicate Singaporean pie tee cup — aligns with Ayurveda's focus on strong digestion or agni, points out the chef. "We also integrate heart-healthy ingredients like apples and cinnamon in savoury chutneys to aid digestion of richer mains. Fresh ginger finds its way into broths not only for its flavour but also for its warming, digestive benefits," he notes.

The popular pumpkin

Thanks to the Western pop culture, the Instagrammable pumpkin pies and spiced pumpkin lattes have become synonymous with cosy autumn weather in India, a trend that spills into the winters as well. But the humble kaddu can be just as delightful in halwas, sabzis and parathas. "It is subtly sweet, earthy flavour is grounding and deeply satisfying. Its nutrients support immune function and skin health — which are vital as the weather gets colder. Even its seeds are nutritional powerhouses, packed with healthy fats, magnesium, zinc, and fibre," explains Chef Chouhan. Just roasting slices of pumpkin, he says, can feel like a meditative ritual — "slicing, scooping, seasoning, and watching them caramelise in the oven."

While Chef Salunkhe transforms pumpkin into a warming soup with a celeriac mash and a hint of parsley oil; and uses the classic cinnamon–orange zest combination to infuse glazed parsnips; Chef Riwash delights in churning out a nutty, slightly spiced pumpkin and apple halwa. "This fusion dessert blends the sweetness of apples with pumpkin's earthiness, flavoured with cinnamon, cardamom, and a hint of ginger, garnished with toasted pistachios," he states.

A season of balance

So, as you sip on a cup of warm cider, curl up to read 'A Christmas Carol', or rewatch 'The Princess Switch' this winter, don't forget to add a touch of home to your little celebrations.

Perhaps a bowl of apple halwa or kaddu ki sabzi, that transports you back to your grandma's cosy kitchen, would just be the perfect little way to sweeten the season, isn't it?

Hokh syun, the tradition of using sundried vegetables during 'chillai e kalan', the 40 bitterly cold days in Kashmir, still continues, writes Khursheed Ahmad Shah

A taste of sustenance and survival

Kashmir is a land where winters are not just a season, but a way of life. When the snow begins to fall, it doesn't stop for weeks. Roads vanish, markets close, and the whole valley seems cut off from the rest of the world. In the old days, people here had to prepare early for this isolation. They found their own way to survive the long, frozen months by drying vegetables in the summer sun. This tradition is called hokh syun, which simply means dry vegetables, and for Kashmiris, it has always been the taste of survival.

Dried dandelion leaves, called handh, hold a special place in Kashmiri meals.

KASHMIRI CUISINE

From July to October, when the air is still warm, villages across the valley come alive with the sight of vegetables spread on rooftops and courtyards. Women slice bottle gourds, brinjals, turnips, and tomatoes into thin pieces and lay them neatly on zagich a traditional mat made of grass. The sun slowly draws out the moisture, leaving behind crisp, light pieces that will last through winter. It's a scene found in almost every home, from Kupwara in the north to the hills of Shopian.

By the end of autumn, every house smells faintly of sun and spice. Vazul machragun or red chillies hang from the balconies like garlands, waiting to be crushed into powder. Vazul machragun gives Kashmiri wazwan its fiery soul and signature red glow. Dried bottle gourd (ale hachi), brinjal (wangan hachi), and tomato (ruwangan hachi) are stored carefully in cloth bags or tin boxes. To an outsider, it might look like simple food preservation, but in Kashmir, it is part of life itself a habit passed down quietly through generations.

Staying warm

When winter arrives, especially during 'Chillai e Kalan', the 40 bitterly cold days that test every household, these dried vegetables become the valley's main food. Fresh vegetables are hard to find, and even if available, they are said to make the body cold. Hokh syun keeps people warm and nourished. Inside every home, clay stoves glow with slow-burning firewood as the smell of dried vegetables fills the air.

The taste of hokh syun is unlike anything else — smoky, rich, and deep. Dried brinjal cooked in mustard oil, bottle gourd stewed with fish, or dried tomatoes turned into thick gravies — each dish feels like a memory of sunshine. Among them, handh, or dried dandelion greens, holds a special place. It is believed to have healing powers, especially for women recovering after childbirth, and helps people stay strong during harsh winters.

In the higher villages, where snow covers the land for months and doctors are miles away, these foods also serve as natural medicine. People say dried vegetables protect the elderly from chest infections and cold-related illnesses.

In Srinagar, the faithful gather at Dargah Hazratbal for Friday prayers, and when they return home, it's often hokh syun waiting on the table the humble dried vegetables that have long carried the warmth of Kashmiri winters.

Today, even with modern heating and markets, hokh syun continues. Every summer, people still fill their courtyards with sliced vegetables, turning them gently under the sun. It's more than just a habit it's a quiet form of wisdom, a reminder that life in Kashmir has always found warmth even in the coldest times.

Dried vegetables sold in Meena Bazaar, Srinagar.

Wellness

A recent study published in *Nature's Scientific Reports* shows that India has seen a decline in sunshine hours over 30 years (1988-2018). The north Indian plains have seen the steepest reduction of 13.1 hours annually. Medical experts weigh in on the implications of such a drop

The sunshine vitamin

DR SUNIL G KINI

HEALTH IN THE HEADLINES

Vitamin D is essential for maintaining healthy muscle and strength, but because of its limited availability, a global health crisis has emerged affecting both children and adults.

Unlike most vitamins, vitamin D is not widely available in food. Our bodies produce the majority of it — about 70–80 per cent — when our skin is exposed to sunlight, specifically UV-B rays. However, several factors such as season, latitude, time of day, skin colour, age, and sunscreen use can influence how much vitamin D our bodies can make.

Why vitamin D matters

Vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium from the food we eat and supports proper bone development, renewal, and mineralisation. In children, severe deficiency can lead to rickets, a condition that causes bone deformities. In adults, low vitamin D levels can worsen osteoporosis, weaken bones, and lead to osteomalacia, a painful condition caused by softening of the bones.

Research has concluded that low levels of vitamin D are also associated with a higher likelihood of developing more than one of several diseases such as some types of cancers, cardiovascular disease, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and type 1 diabetes. Sufficient vitamin D is required during pregnancy; otherwise, children may develop lower levels of bone density and may be at greater risk of developing osteoporosis as they grow older.

How much vitamin D do we need?

According to health professionals, children and young adults require 200 IU/day (5 µg), older adults require 400-600 IU/day (10-15 µg), and seniors (aged 60 and older) require 800-1000 IU/day to maintain bone health and avoid falling. Sun exposure provides the majority of vitamin D for most people; generally, 10 to 20 minutes of direct sunlight on your skin (face, hands, and arms) before 10 am and after 2 pm is enough for most people to get adequate vitamin D.

Food sources and fortified options

Only a few foods naturally contain vitamin D. These include certain oily fish, eggs, mushrooms, and cod liver oil. To help bridge the gap, many commonly consumed foods, such as breakfast cereals and orange juice, are fortified with vitamin D.

Managing osteoporosis

For many patients diagnosed with osteoporosis, combining calcium and vitamin D may improve bone density and support treatment. Some patients may need injectable medications that are given daily or every six months to rebuild bone density.

(The author is HOD and consultant - orthopaedic & robotic joint replacement surgery at a Bengaluru hospital.)

DEXA scan

- Dual energy X-ray absorptiometry or DEXA scan as it is called is an X-ray scan that helps measure bone mineral density. The bone density test is used by your medical practitioner to assess how much bone loss has occurred over a period of time.
- The results of a DEXA scan are measured in the form of a T-score.
- A normal bone will give a result of above -1.
- T-score in the range of -1 and -2.5 would mean osteopenia (less mineral and protein content in bone tissue)
- T-score of -2.5 or lesser would indicate osteoporosis.

Building strong bones

A diet that includes calcium and vitamin D is important for bone health.

- Preventive measures include exercising with weights or resistance bands as part of your practice for improving bone health.
- A high calcium diet is also important for bone health. You should eat enough of the following foods to reach the recommended daily intake of calcium: dairy products, leafy greens, almonds, tofu, and fortified foods.
- You should limit the use of sodium and processed foods containing a lot of sodium because they cause you to lose calcium and weaken your bones.
- You should eat enough protein to have healthy bones.
- Avoid smoking and limit alcohol consumption.
- Doctors may recommend a bone density scan (DEXA scan) for individuals at higher risk of osteoporosis.

When the light dims

DR ALOK KULKARNI

Every November, there's a tremendous rise in the frequency of clients presenting to mental health experts with symptoms suggestive of depression.

When there are fewer hours of sunlight, some people experience a serious mood change. This condition is called Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD. This disorder is a type of depression, in some cases, the depressed phase of a more severe illness called bipolar disorder.

What causes SAD?

It occurs due to a combination of factors which may include:

- **Genetic predisposition:** If an individual has a family history of depression, he/she may be more at risk for developing SAD.
- **Chemicals and hormones:** Modern brain imaging techniques have revealed that the brains of people suffering from SAD look different from those of people without SAD or depression. In addition, important chemicals which allow "talk" among the brain cells seem to be in disarray, in such people.
- **Stressful life events:** These situations include bereavement, a difficult relationship or an unwelcome change, all of which occur, more often than not, prior to a depressive spell.

Much research is also being done on the effect of female hormones and their protective impact against developing SAD or depression in women. Such a school of thought has arisen as women are particularly more prone to depression during puberty, just after pregnancy and during menopause, phases when there is a disequilibrium in the levels of the female hormone estrogen.

Signs of SAD

Symptoms of SAD include: irritability, fatigue, social withdrawal, oversleeping, weight gain, feelings of hopelessness, and thoughts of suicide. Seasonal affective disorder affects many people in North India, especially young women, and is usually treated with bright light in the morning. This is called phototherapy or light therapy. The disorder may may be effectively treated with light therapy, but nearly half of those with SAD do not respond to light therapy alone. Antidepressant medication and talk therapy (psychotherapy) also can reduce SAD symptoms, either alone or in combination with light therapy.

Some effective preventive measures include offering emotional support, lending a patient ear and doling out words of encouragement. Family members can keep the depressed individual engaged in conversation, never disparaging his/her feelings and offering hope. Never ignore comments about suicide, and report them to your psychiatrist immediately.

It is vital to seek professional psychiatric help which can bring back the lost sunshine and sunny moments in the lives of these individuals.

(The author is a senior consultant psychiatrist at a Hubballi-based mental health institute.)

What is light therapy?

Light therapy, also called, phototherapy, refers to the use of artificial light (to resemble daylight) to help patients with seasonal affective disorder. It involves sitting near or working close to a light box for about half an hour. A light box has a flat screen that uses full spectrum fluorescent light. There are light boxes that emit different colours but those boxes are used for therapies such as migraines. Full spectrum light boxes are used to treat SAD. It is best to consult a mental health professional and not try therapies at home without expert advice, especially if you have eye disorders or other health problems.

DIFFERENT STROKES

Anamorphic art by Shireen Miller. (Pic by author)

Anamorphic illusionistic painting by Vera Bugatti.
(Pic courtesy: Wikimedia)

An anamorphic street mural.

Anamorphic art is not merely a visual trick but an enduring, intellectually rigorous challenge to how we perceive the world around us, writes Giridhar Khasnis

Distortion, **but deliberate**

That Hans Holbein the Younger (1497-1543) was one of the supreme portrait painters has never been in doubt," wrote the eminent art critic Robert Hughes (Time magazine/ June 20, 1983). "Anyone who has seen his painting 'The Ambassadors'— two wary young traders amid their pellucid clutter of emblematic objects, with an anamorphic blur of a skull floating strangely across the inlaid floor — knows that at once."

Hughes went on to explain how Holbein was one of the great minds of the Northern Renaissance; how he was a truly international artist, working in Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, and especially England; and how, despite the powerful integrity of his style, Holbein's work was receptive to various influences.

Giridhar Khasnis

John Berger, another authoritative critical voice, also discussed Holbein's painting 'The Ambassadors' in his seminal work, 'Ways of Seeing' (1972). After providing a detailed description of the painting, Berger notes: "In the foreground of Holbein's Ambassadors, there is a mysterious, slanting, oval form. This represents a highly distorted skull: a skull as it might be seen in a distorting mirror... What is significant for our argument is that the skull is painted in a (literally) quite different optic from everything else in the picture. If the skull had been painted like the rest, its metaphysical implication would have disappeared; it would have become an object like everything else, a mere part of a mere skeleton of a man who happened to be dead."

Concealed codes

Painted in 1533, 'The Ambassadors' is often described as one of the most impressive portraits of Renaissance art. The double portrait surrounded by a range of symbolic objects also exemplifies anamorphic art. Besides a string of scientific instruments and a lute with a broken string, it features an anamorphic skull at the bottom centre that is clearly visible only when viewed from a specific angle; from other perspectives, it appears distorted or abstract. While 'The Ambassadors' is an oft-quoted painting of anamorphic art, artists throughout history have engaged in creating works of optical illusion that have captivated viewers in intriguing ways. Through an intellectually rigorous act of visual distortion, they have compelled the viewers to actively engage in the process of perception by rendering the images unrecognisable until viewed from specific, prescribed vantage points or reflected in curved mirrors or lenses.

This unique art of anamorphosis often creates the appearance of movement and concealed codes. Various media have been used to create this art, including painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and digital art. Anamorphic art is an ever-evolving genre, with artists applying new tools and techniques. An extremely demanding genre, it involves great imagination, meticulous planning, and flawless execution. A thorough understanding of elements such as lighting, scale, and perspective is essential to achieve the desired visual effects. The power of anamorphic art lies in its ability to challenge, rearrange, and ultimately deceive the viewer's perception of reality.

A matter of perception

The history of artists who have engaged in anamorphic art is extensive, spanning various time periods. While Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks contain a series of "anamorphic" sketches, Baroque architects took the illusion a step further, turning entire ceilings into breathtaking celestial vistas. Andrea Pozzo (1642-1709) engineered dazzling frescoes that appear three-dimensional from the aisle of the Church of Sant'Ignazio in Rome. M C Escher's Print Gallery (1956) is an anamorphic puzzle featuring a spiral of paintings. Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) also explored three-dimensional anamorphosis with sculptures and paintings. Throughout these different eras, while the tools and techniques changed, the fundamental goal of manipulating perspective remained constant. Anamorphic art has experienced a powerful resurgence in recent decades through 3D street art (pavement chalk drawings), muralism, and interactive digital installations —forms that fundamentally change the viewer's physical relationship to the work. This shift to public, interactive spaces and new tools enables artists to manipulate light and scale with precision that far exceeds the capabilities of Renaissance masters. The largest anamorphic artwork in the world, according to the Guinness World Records, is at the Peace Dam in South Korea. Painted in 2018, this monumental painting covers an area of over 4,700 sqm.

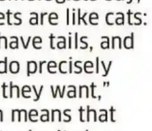
'The Ambassadors' by Hans Holbein The Younger.

Miller Museum in Bengaluru

Here is some good news for Bangaloreans wanting to glimpse the power and precision of anamorphic art. The newly opened Miller Museum of Anamorphic Art celebrates the work of Shereen Miller (1941-2023), an artist born in Bengaluru whose creative journey was enriched by a global perspective, blending her experiences across different cultures. Besides anamorphic works, the museum also presents Shereen's drawings, paintings, and teakwood sculptures.

The Miller Museum is located on Carleston Road and is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. (11 am to 6 pm). For further info, check: millermuseumofanamorphicart. com

ESOTERICA *A monthly exploratory infographic for the always curious*

	ASTEROIDS	SOLAR SYSTEM COMETS	INTERSTELLAR COMETS
Composition	Rocky and metallic	Rocky, icy, and dusty	Varies from comet to comet
Appearance	Irregularly shaped rocky bodies	Ice vaporises when close to Sun, forming a glowing tail	Outwardly similar to solar system comets
Origin	In the solar system		In some other star system
Orbit	Orbit the Sun in elliptical paths, which are bound, with closed loops (like planets orbiting the Sun)		Gravity pulls them into the solar system where they adopt an unbound, hyperbolic path around the Sun 
Number	Countless	>40,000 in the solar system	3 detected so far

IS 3I/ATLAS A COMET OR ALIEN CRAFT?

With its closest approach to Earth coming on December 19, we examine the compelling, albeit speculative, reasons why some scientists suspect that this visitor from beyond the solar system "might actually be an alien probe".

Why the speculation that 3I/Atlas is an alien spacecraft

WEIRD OBJECT FROM OUTSIDE THE SOLAR SYSTEM: 3I/Atlas has displayed several visually striking phenomena since its detection (July 1). These unusual traits initially fed public and online speculation before receiving conventional explanations. For example, before making its closest approach to the Sun (October 29), 3I/ATLAS had a tail pointing toward the Sun (an "anti-tail").

Typically, when a comet approaches the Sun, solar wind pushes a trail of dust and gases away from the Sun, which appears to be a tail. While speculators suggested this could be a thrusting mechanism – like an engine firing to slow down or manoeuvre the craft before its solar pass, experts concluded that 3I/Atlas had dust particles too large to be pushed away by solar wind.

YET TO BE EXPLAINED ANOMALIES: 3I/Atlas has an unusual light-scattering behaviour and its gas plume contains much more nickel than iron (like many industrial nickel alloys). These are some of the major peculiarities scientists have still not adequately explained. So, speculations abound that 3I/Atlas' surface is possibly metallic, such as in an engineered object, rather than a natural ball of space ice.

Illustration is satirical and has no scientific basis

The case for 3I/Atlas being an actual comet

3I/Atlas' unexplained characteristics have sparked intrigue, but not consensus as the large majority of planetary scientists have publicly postulated that 3I/Atlas is a comet, albeit an anomalous one. In fact, interstellar comets are expected to be anomalous because having originated in a different star system, they would have a very different composition and history. Also, it's an established fact that no two comets seem quite alike.

As cosmologists say, "comets are like cats: they have tails, and they do precisely what they want," which means that comets don't show any standard behaviour. Clearly, the 3I/Atlas mystery is open to scientific scrutiny rather than sensational conclusions.

THE AVI LOEB EFFECT: Abraham "Avi" Loeb, a Harvard University astrophysicist, is one of the biggest names to be backing the idea that all of 3I/Atlas' oddities add up to it being an alien spacecraft. His is a minority view among scientists, but that is not to say that Loeb's views have earned him enormous TV time and fan following.

TEXT & DESIGN: SIDDHARTH MOHANTY | Key Sources: nasa.gov, space.com

MUSEUM MATTERS

A 'patriarchy' exhibition in Rome

A temporary exhibition on patriarchy in Rome showcased sexist paradigms in Italy's male-dominated and macho society, where gender equality "is a distant prospect".

It's the year 2148, and women and men are equal: Rome's temporary "Museum of the Patriarchy" looks back from the future to highlight the gender gap. Pink and blue pay slips from 2025 illustrate gender pay inequality, while a schoolbook exercise places mums in the kitchen and dads at work, and the sound of women being catcalled is played over a loudspeaker. Put on by charity ActionAid, the five-day exhibit said it intended to be "a journey through artefacts, relics, and works representative of patriarchal Italian society from the 20th and 21st centuries".

Gender stereotypes remain deeply entrenched in Italy.
(Pic courtesy: Wikimedia)

A red dress, scrawled with the controlling questions "Where are you?" and "Who are you with?", is a centre-piece of the exhibition. "The idea is that we're looking at artefacts from 2025 through the eyes of someone living in 2148," Alice Grecchi, media relations officer for ActionAid Italy, told *AFP*. That is the year in which gender equality will finally be achieved, according to the latest World Economic Forum report on the gender gap. The exhibition is based on research by ActionAid and the independent Pavia Observatory.

AFP

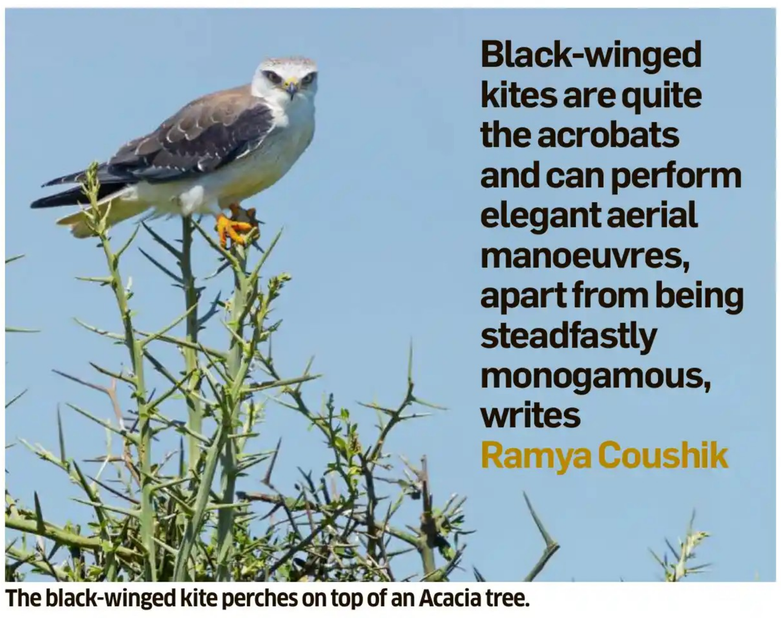
ROOTING FOR NATURE

Graceful guardians of the grasslands

A red-eyed sentinel watches over Navilu Kaadu from his perch on the tall sizzling tree, a tree we call Baage mara in Kannada (*Albizia lebbeck*). He scans the wild grassland for his meal. On spotting a prospect, he gracefully takes wing and halts midair. Gazing straight into the grass below, he holds position, hovering, flapping his wings for balance. A couple of minutes on, the hunter dives in, feet first, for the kill. I watch with bated breath through my binoculars, till he emerges and soars into the air clutching something in his talons — a field mouse!

The predator then airlifts his quarry to a suitable dining branch on the Baage mara and proceeds to dismember the hexed mouse.

Meet Navilu Kaadu's charismatic raptor, the black-winged kite aka black-shouldered kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), sharply turned out in wispy grey and snow-white plumage. He wears ebony wing coverts or shoulder patches, has butterscotch yellow legs and cere (fleshy patch above the beak), black talons, and flaming rubies for eyes. His long wings extend beyond his tail when he perches. Our plentiful savannah is his happy hunting ground where he stalks rodents, grasshoppers, crickets, an odd snake, lizards and other ground-dwelling creatures. He sometimes hunts birds and bats on the wing. He adopts another hunting technique, too, called quartering, patrolling closer to terra firma for prey.



Black-winged kites are quite the acrobats and can perform elegant aerial manoeuvres, apart from being steadfastly monogamous, writes Ramya Coushik

The black-winged kite perches on top of an Acacia tree.

Adult black-winged kites devour two to three mice a day. They belong to Accipitridae, a family of raptors that hover over grasslands, stalking terrestrial prey.

This elegant little raptor is around 15 inches long and is partial to open scrublands, farmlands and grasslands dotted with trees — habitats with an abundant supply of rodents and ample scope for unobstructed aerial views to track down prey. The female is a tad larger than the male.

Black-winged kites are diurnal, which means they are active during the day. These birds are quite the acrobats and are equipped with cool adaptations that help them pull off graceful aerial manoeuvres. They soar, bank, glide and flutter on long, narrow wings. A short, square tail helps with balance.

They have forward-facing eyes like owls do, to track down quick-footed rodents scurrying through the grass below, and to precisely gauge distance. I particularly dig the dark, feathered lining around their crimson eyes. Smokey eye makeup, anyone?

Zygodactyl feet — three toes pointing forward and one pointing backwards — lend a strong grip when they perch.

These kites are adept at making themselves at home in changing habitats, and one can spot them in open spaces in urban and peri-urban areas, too. Black-winged kites are monogamous and devote themselves to a single mate all their lives. Courtship among black-winged kites is straight out of a Bollywood song and dance sequence! The pair flies in circles high up in the air, not unlike brash heroes and coy heroines circling trees.

A black-winged kite soars in the sky.

The lovesick male flaps about in a flight pattern called 'flutter flight' or 'butterfly flight.' They squeal and squawk sweet nothings to one another, chase each other and clutch talons midair, putting seasoned trapeze artists to shame. The way to a female black-winged kite's heart is through her gizzard, and the male woos his lady love with delicious aerial meals.

Mated pairs collect twigs for nesting material. The female builds a rudimentary grass-lined twig nest and lays a clutch of three to five off-white eggs with tan speckles. She incubates the eggs, while the male ensures she is fed. The chicks hatch in about a month and fledge in 45 days (a fledged chick is fully feathered and learning to fly). A month after fledging, they are ready to venture out on their own, though the father continues to feed them. Juveniles have dark irises and scaly feathers, and gain adult plumage after two years of age. They begin to breed when they turn one.

Black-winged kites live for up to six years. They raise several broods in a good year with abundant food. Their voracious appetite for rats and mice keeps the rodent population in Navilu Kaadu and elsewhere in check.

Despite their remarkable adaptive quality, black-winged kites are at risk of habitat loss from indiscriminate pesticide spraying that erodes their prey base, and from the vexing tendency to classify biodiverse, life-sustaining grasslands as wastelands to be built over.

Rooting For Nature *is a monthly column on an off-kilter urban family's trysts with nature on a natural farm. The author runs Green Goobé, a sustainable venture. Reach her at bluejaydiaries@gmail.com or @ramyacoushik on Instagram.*

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